



ISSUE  
#2

# the once and future QUEEN

KNAVE & KIRKBRIDE  
BROKENSHIRE  
CVETKOVIC



# the once and future QUEEN

#2 of 5



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THESE FAE ARE...LIKE  
EXTRA-NASTY VERSIONS OF  
THE "DARK FAERIES" IN  
MORGAN PARI'S BOOKS.

WHERE'S  
YOUR HEAD  
AT, RANI?

HHOWACK

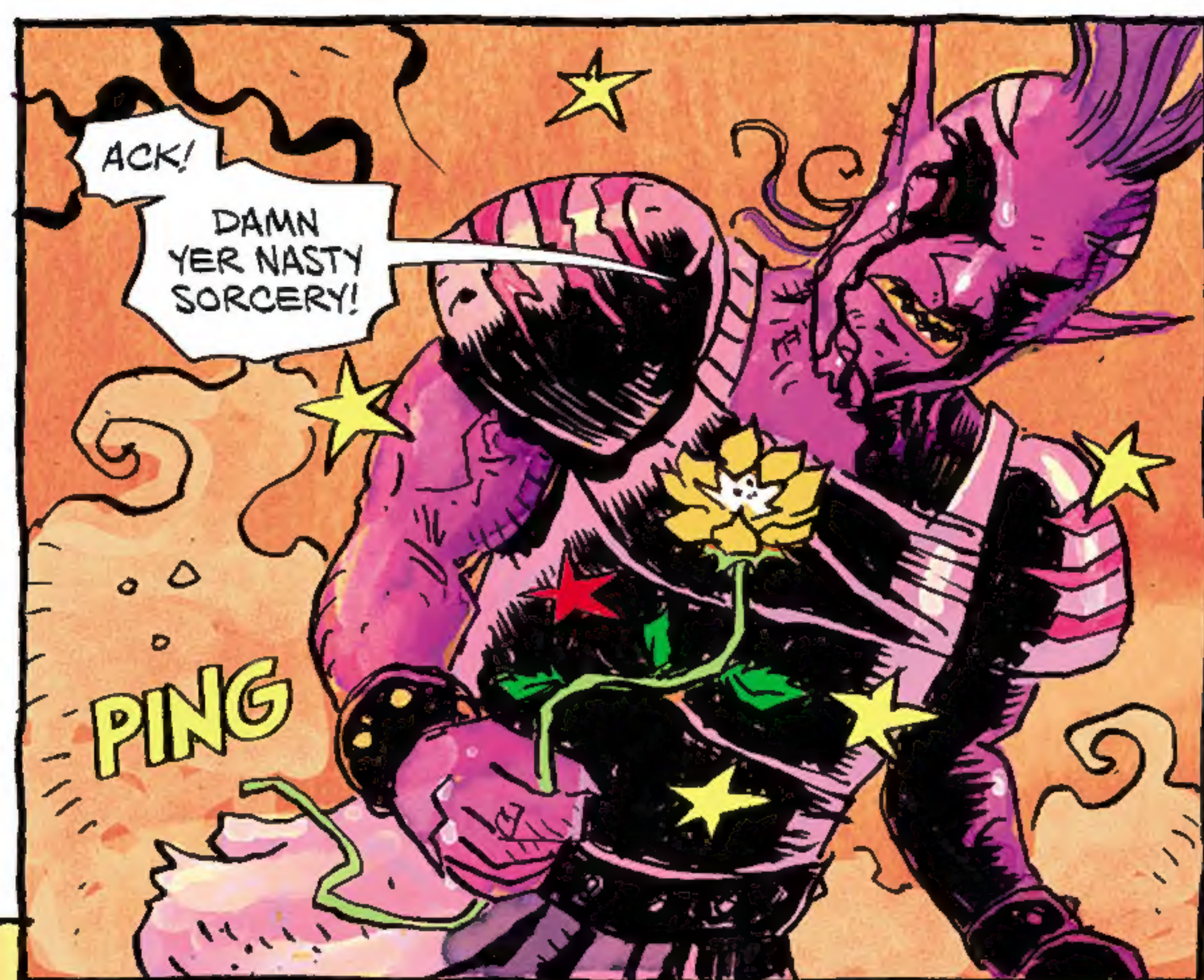
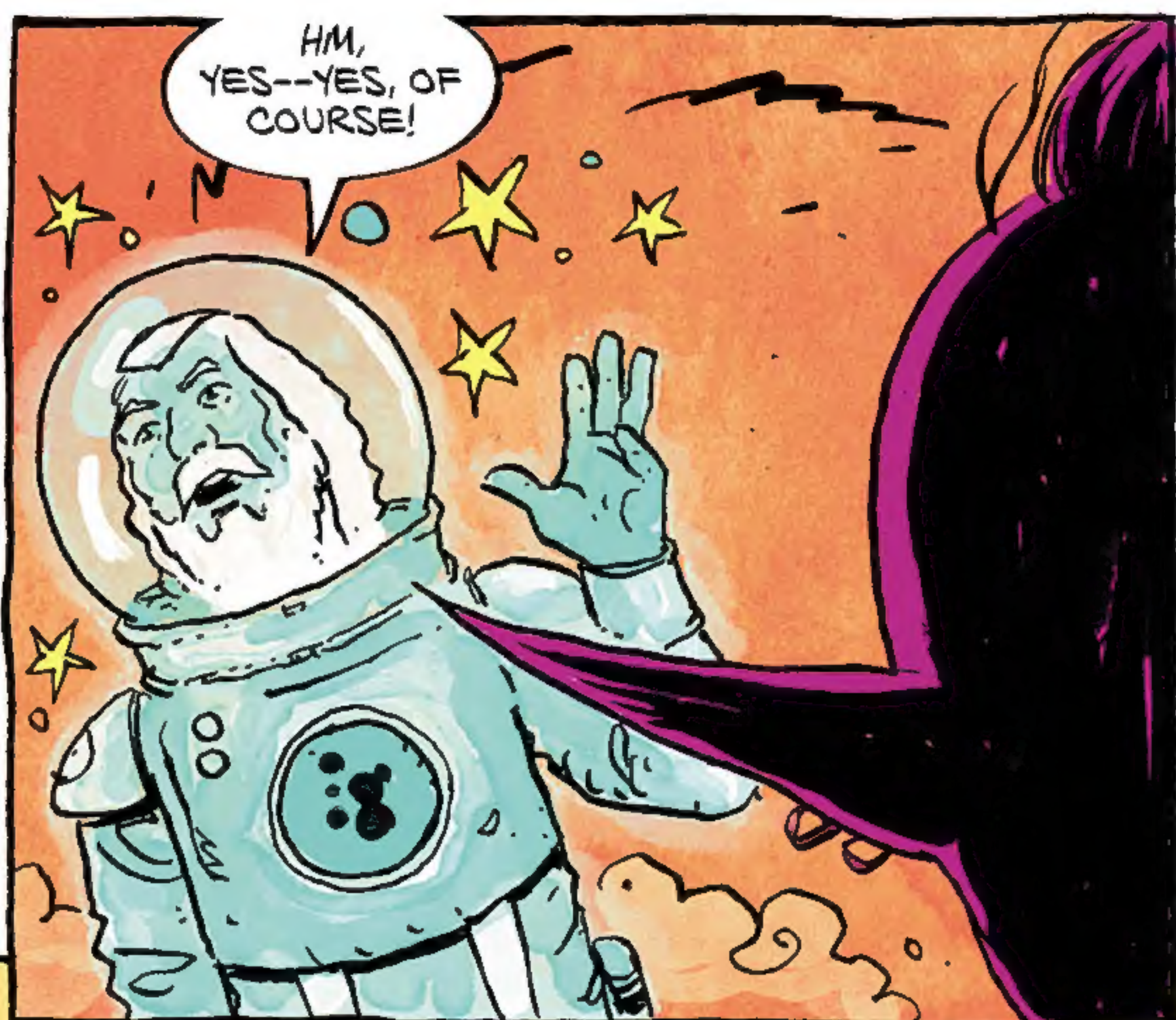
OOPH!

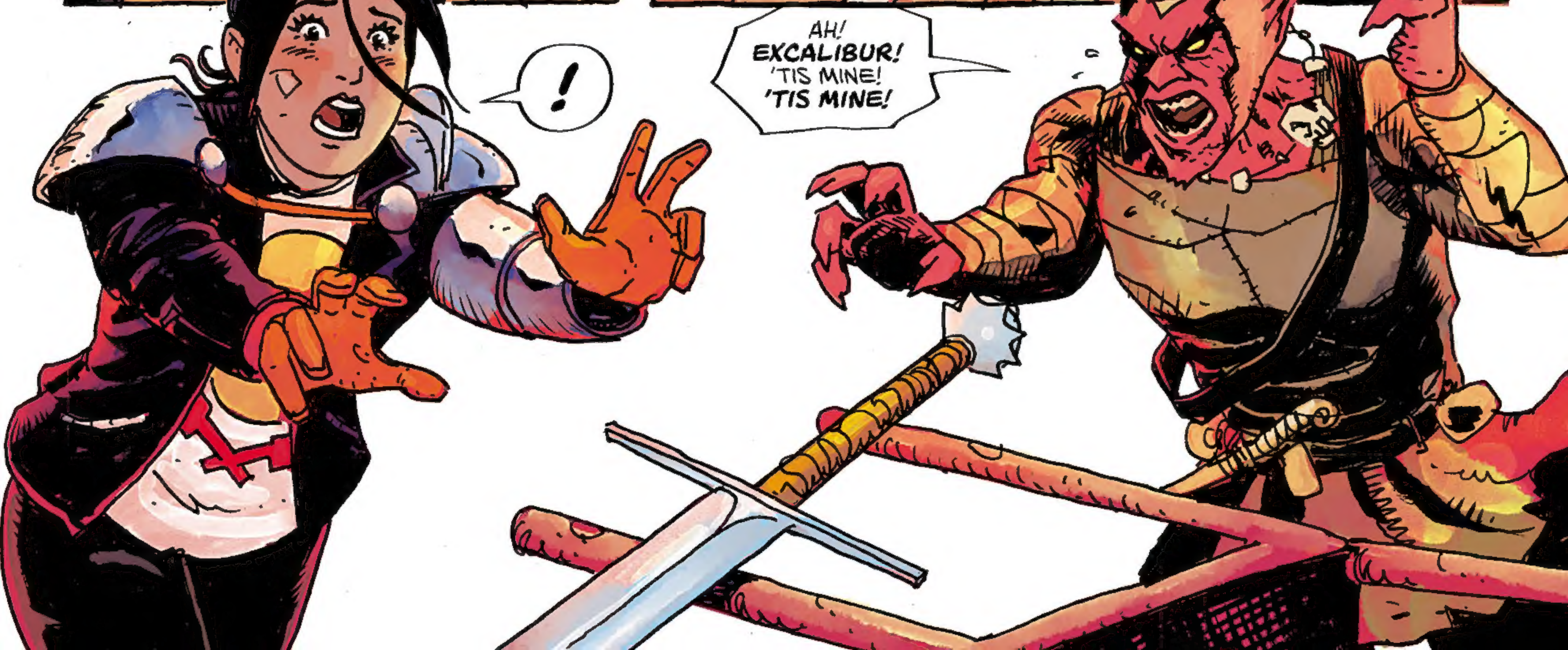
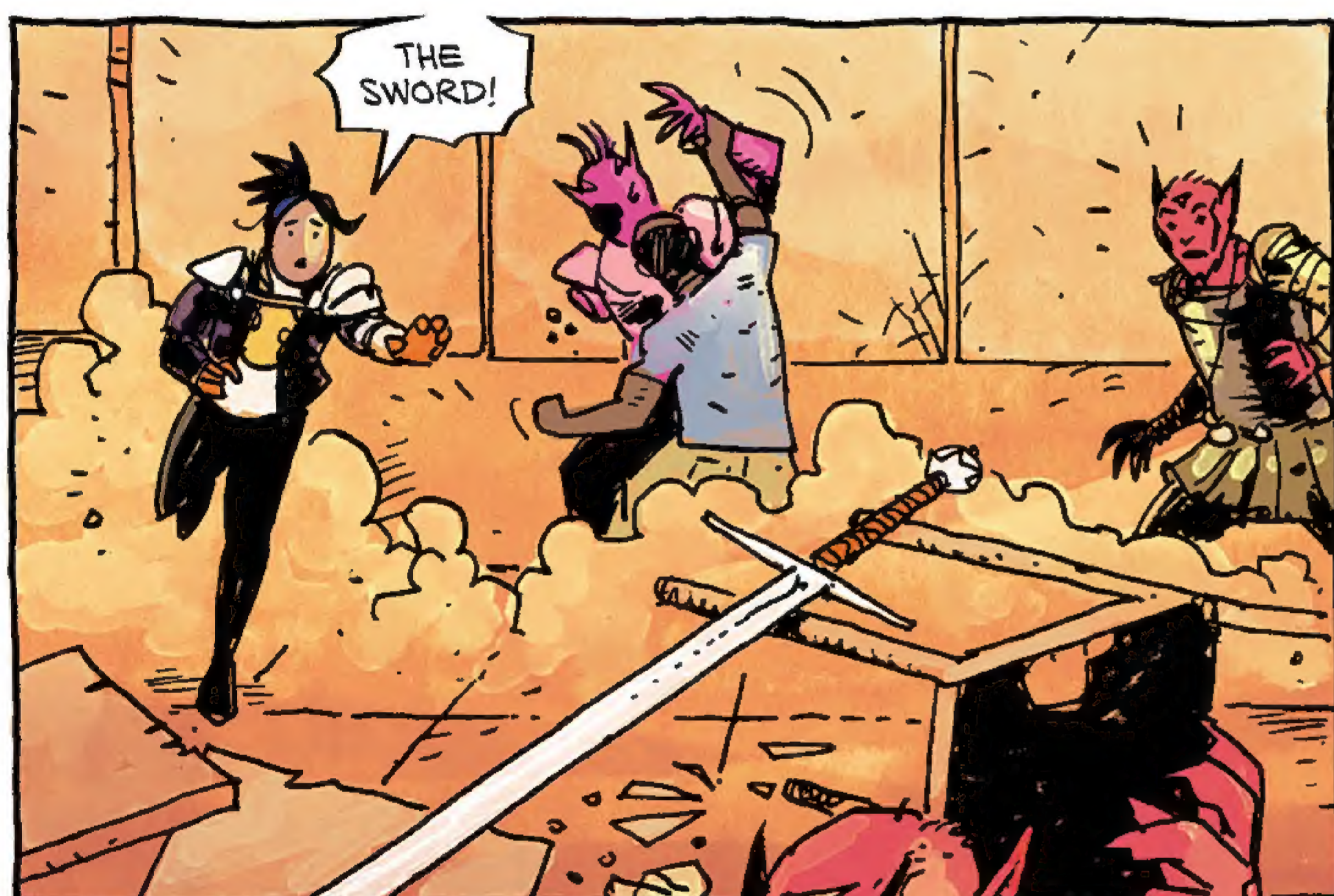
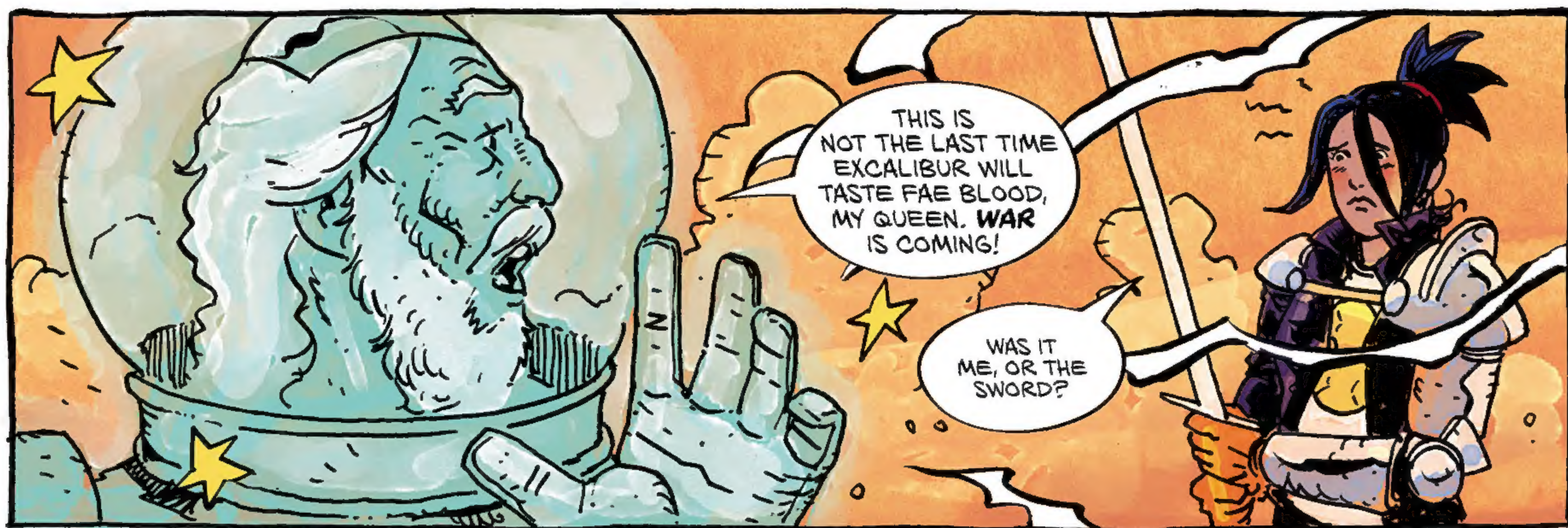
LANCE!

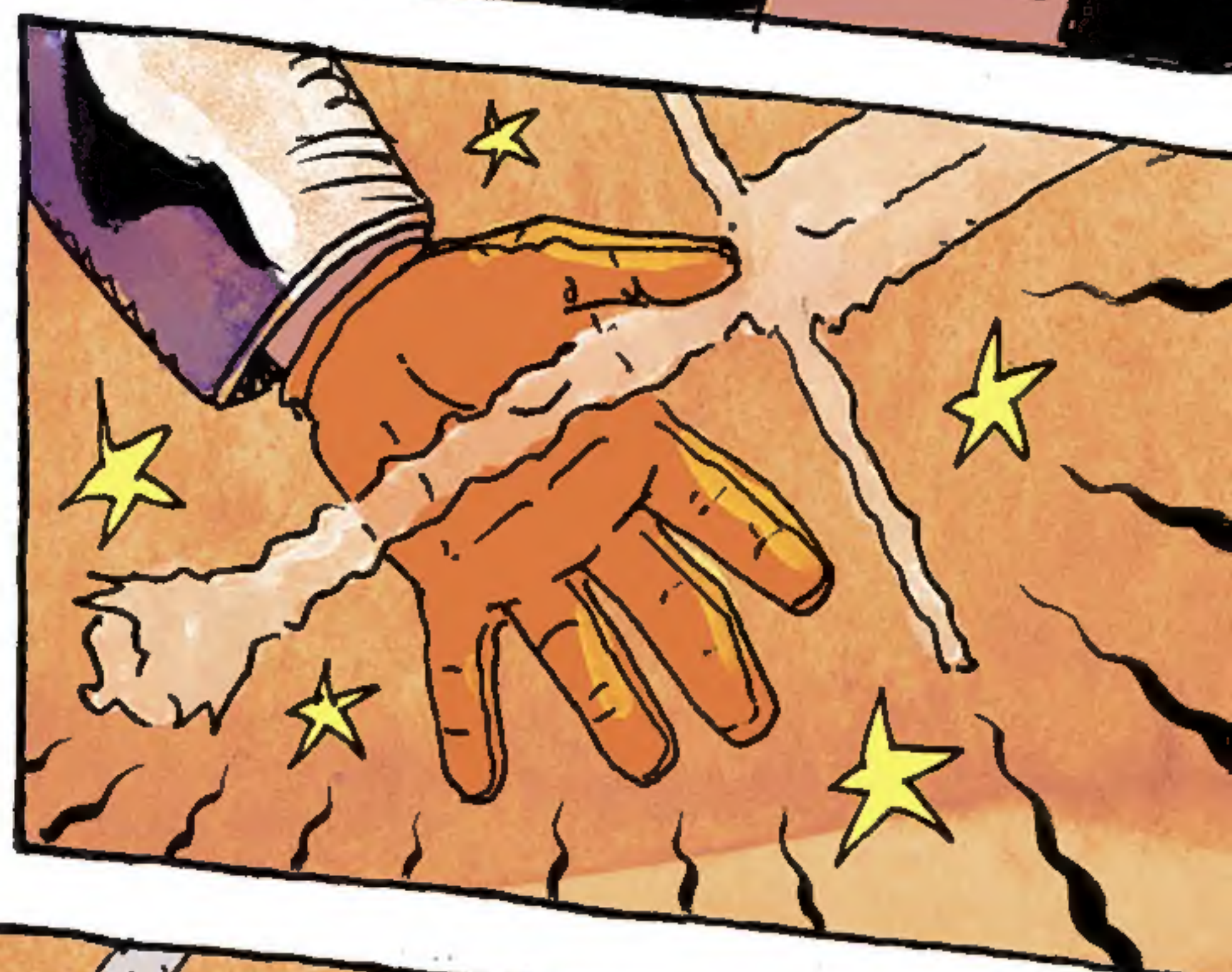
MERLIN!  
WHEN'D YOU GET  
HERE?

JUST  
A MO--

JUST  
HELP!









GWEN!  
LANCE!  
FLANK THEM  
ON EITHER  
SIDE!

BOX  
'EM IN!

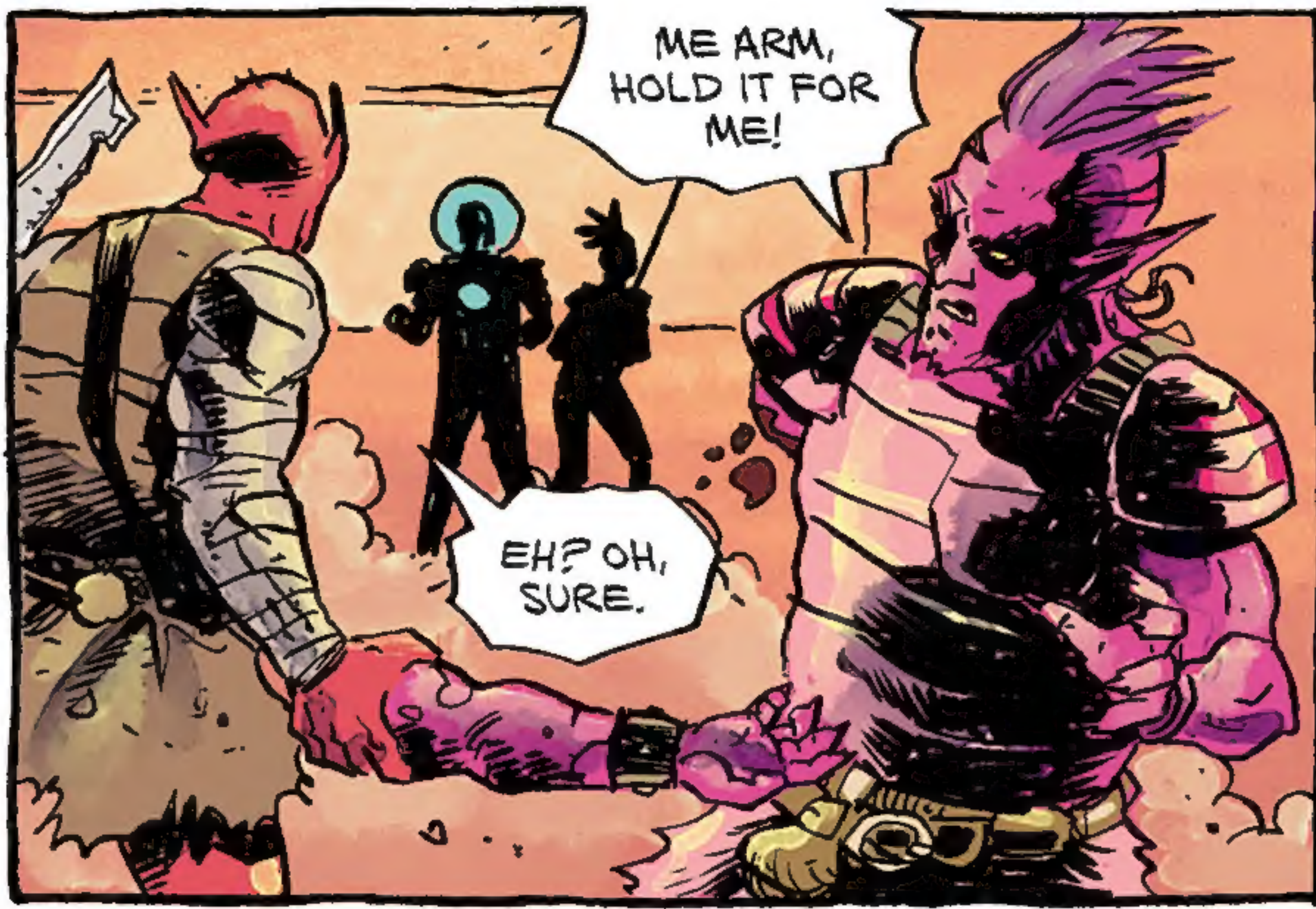
TOO  
SOON SHE  
LEARNS!

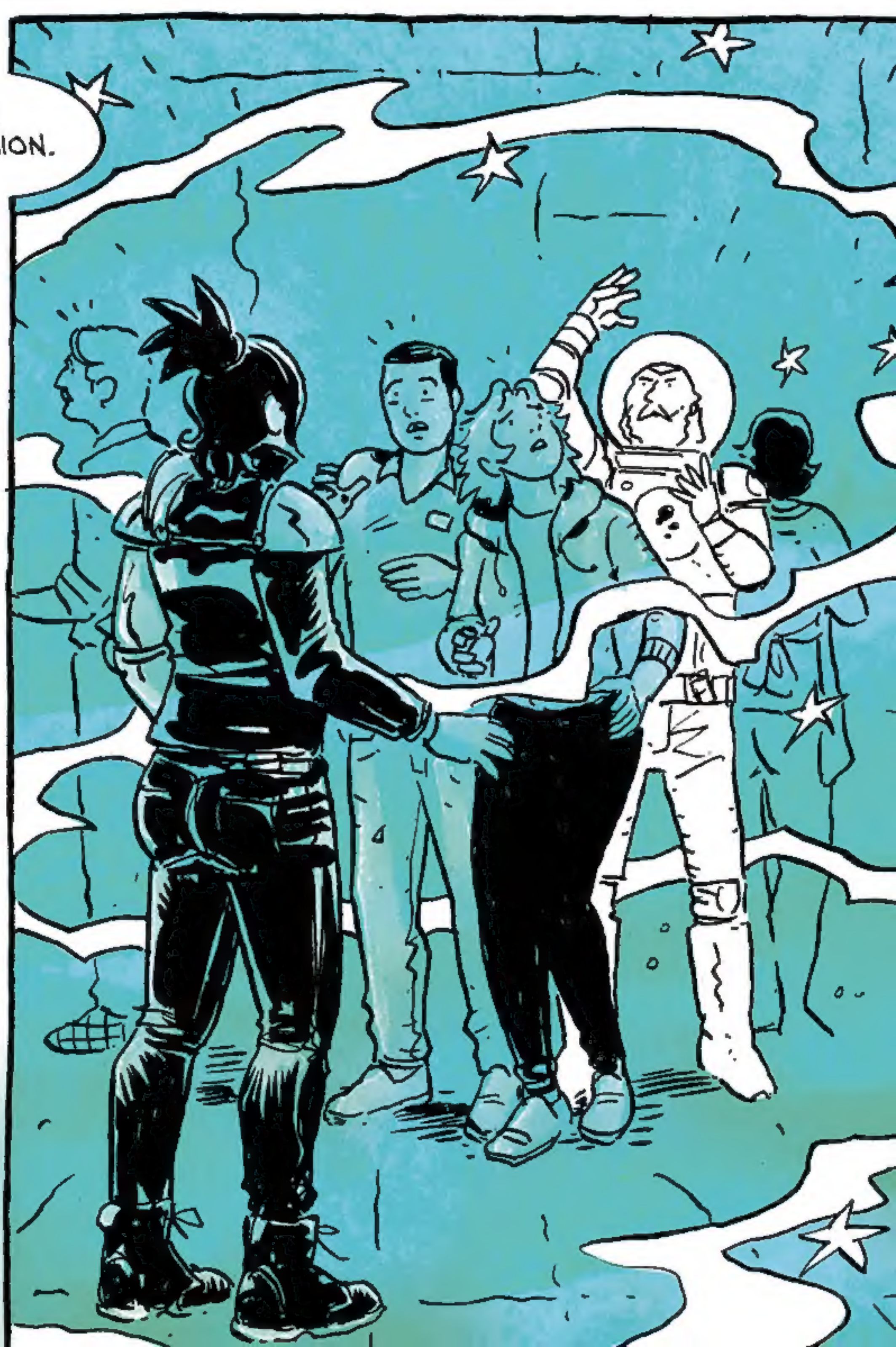
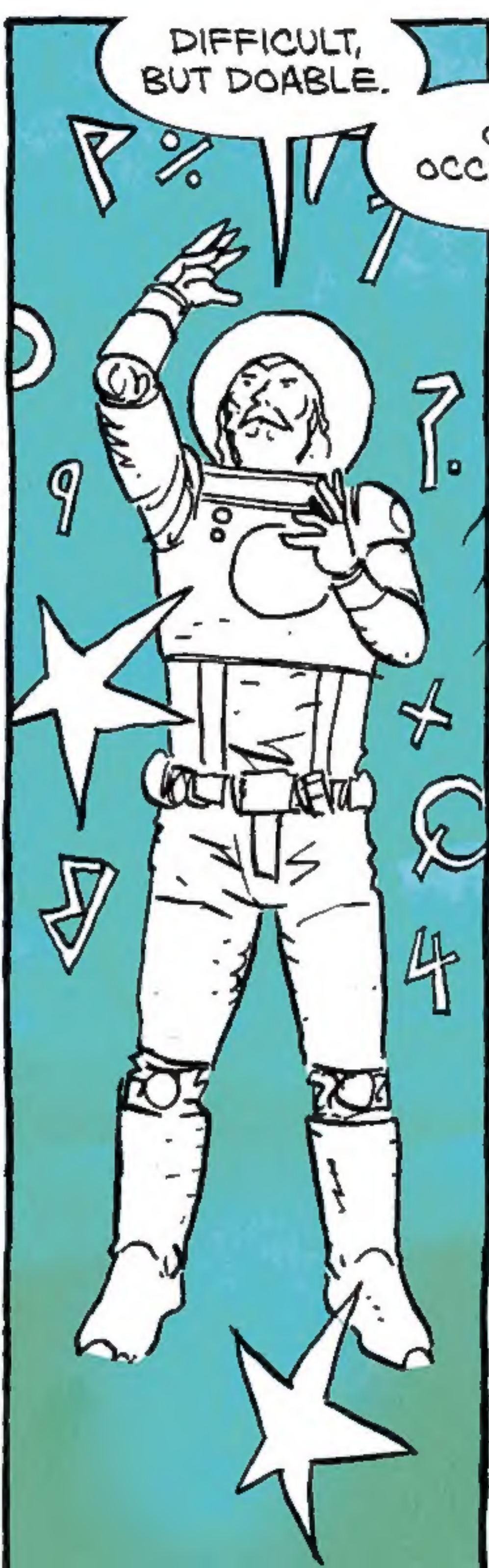
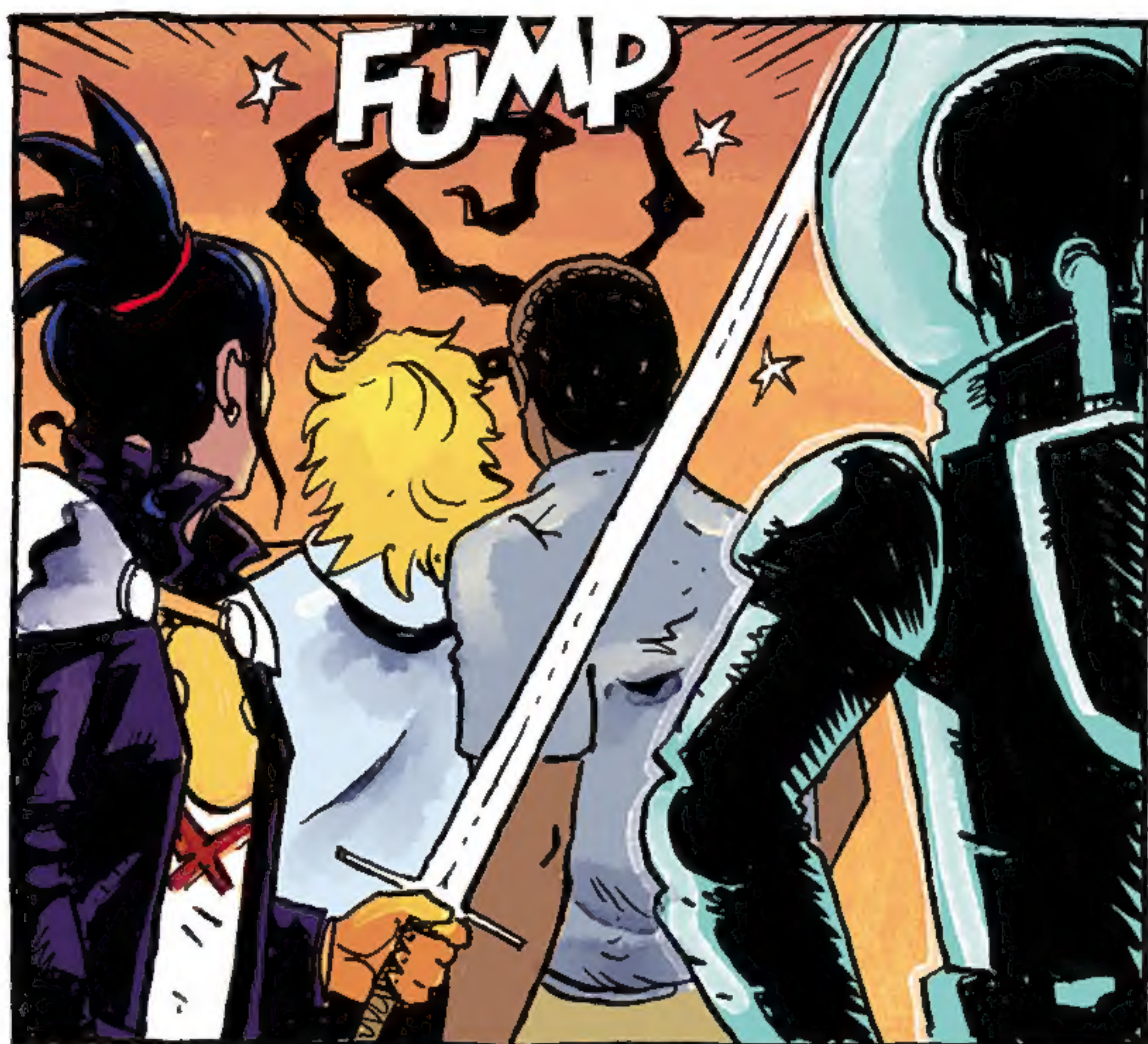
HM, YES!  
THAT'LL DO  
NICELY!

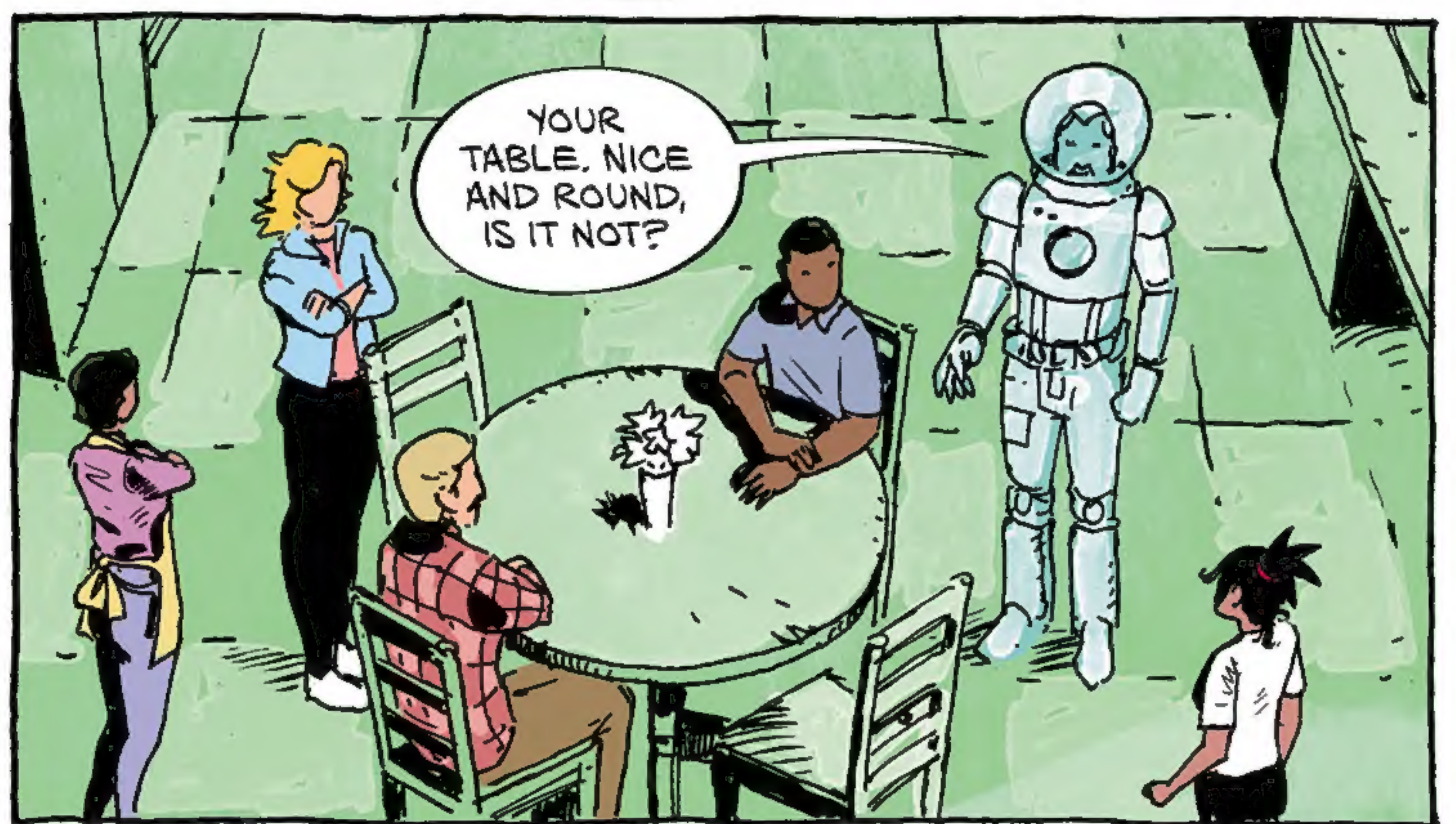
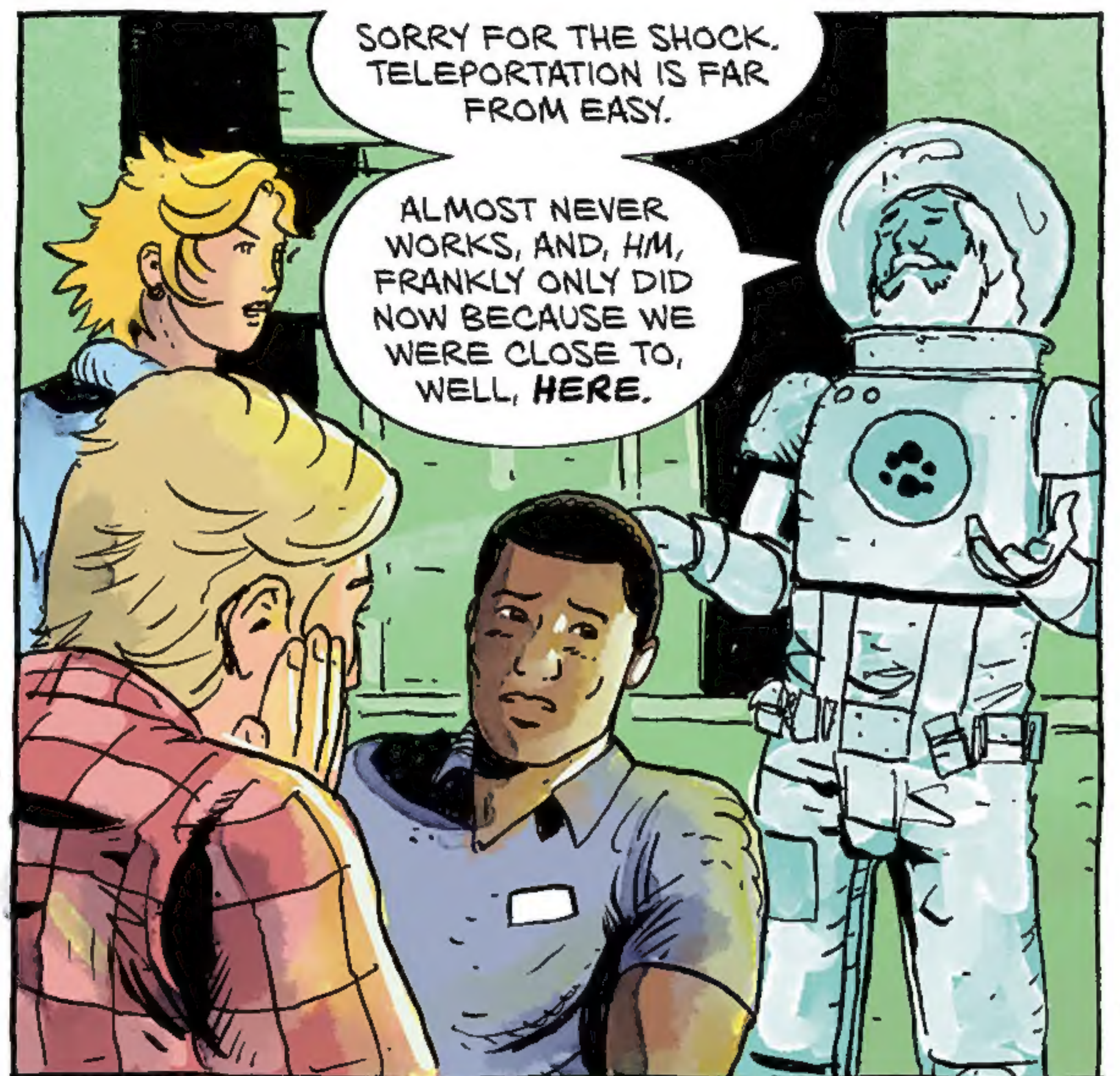
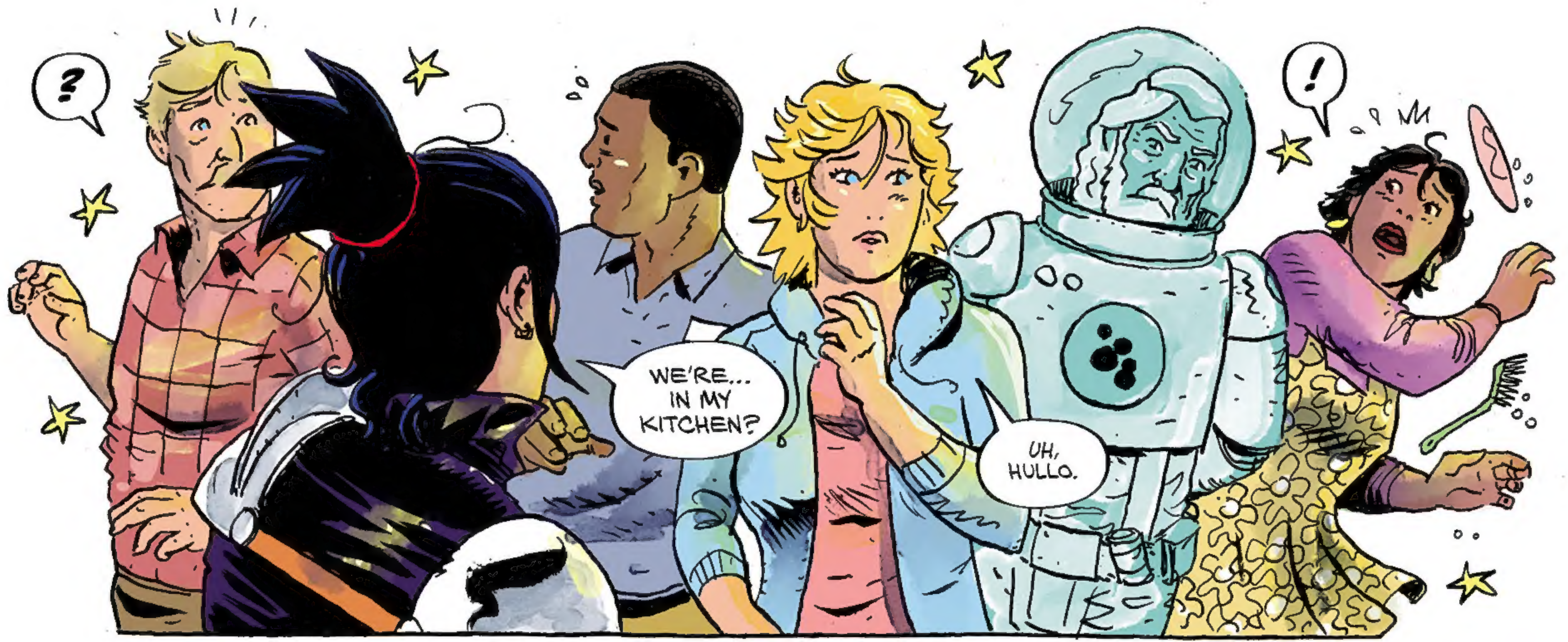
WHAT  
WAS THAT  
USELESS  
FLASH?

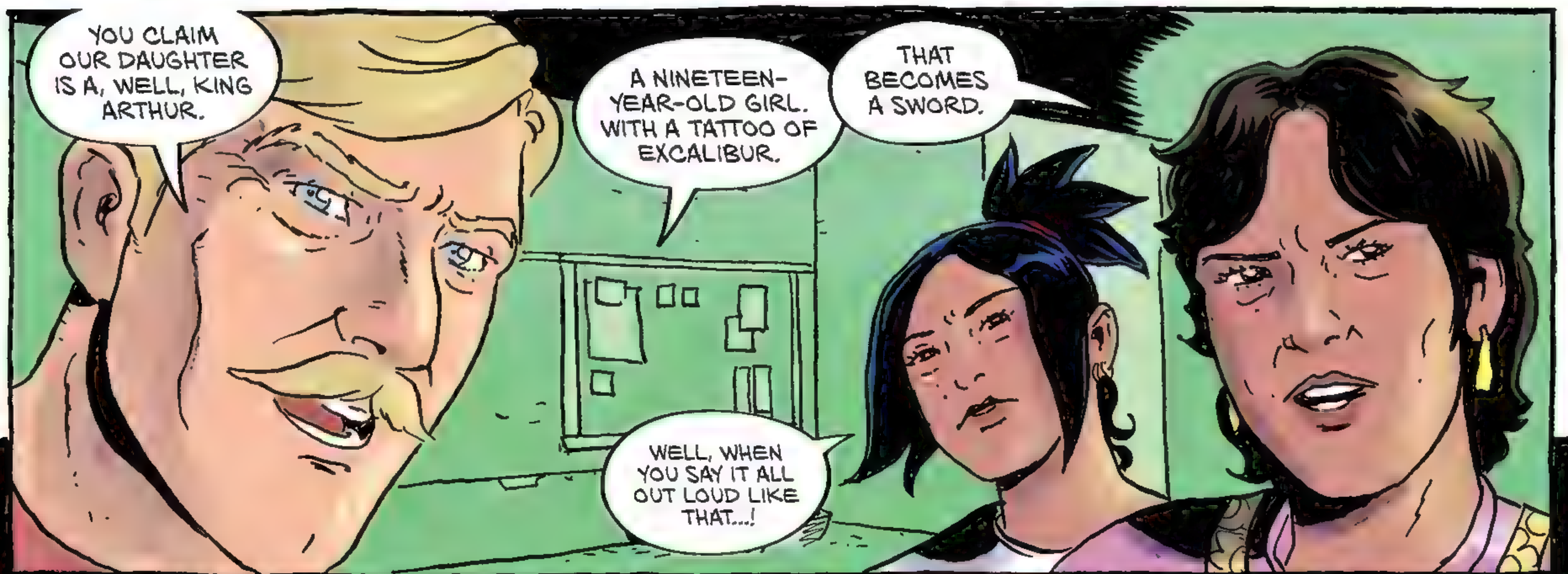
DAMN IT.  
SURROUNDED.

WE NEED  
TO END THIS  
NOW!









THERE ARE  
VARIOUS REALMS IN  
DIFFERENT LAYERS OF  
REALITY, ALL OCCUPYING  
THE SAME SPACE AS  
YOURS. ONE SUCH  
REALM IS THAT OF  
THE **FAE**...

NASTY  
BUGGERS.

"TO YOU, YES,  
BUT TO THEM,  
WE ARE THE  
GROTESQUES.

"THEY'VE LONG SINCE  
OUTGROWN THEIR  
WORLD, CORRUPTING IT  
OUT OF LIVING SPACE  
AND RESOURCES,  
INCLUDING MAGIC.

"THEIR LEADER,  
**THE KING IN SHADOW**--  
APPARENTLY STILL ALIVE,  
I JUST LEARNED--HAS  
BEEN TRYING TO EXPAND  
THEIR REALM TO SURVIVE,  
AND HE'S DECIDED YOUR  
EARTH, IN PARTICULAR,  
IS THEIR BEST BET.

"IT HAS BEEN HIS ALL-CONSUMING  
MISSION SINCE HE LOST A GREAT  
WAR IN THE EARLY DAYS OF  
HUMANITY, BEFORE ANY OF YOU  
OR ANYONE YOU KNOW WERE  
BORN...THOUGH MAYBE AN  
ANCESTOR OR TWO FOUGHT."

YOU,  
YOUNG MAN, IN  
PARTICULAR, LOOK  
RATHER, HMM,  
FAMILIAR.

?

"THE FAE AREN'T  
INHERENTLY EVIL,  
THOUGH THERE IS  
A DARKNESS THAT  
HAS SPREAD OVER  
THE YEARS.  
DESPERATION  
DOES THAT."

MYSELF AND  
SOME LIKE-MINDED  
FRIENDS FROM VARIOUS  
REALMS DECIDED TO  
PUT A LOCK ON  
THE FAE'S.

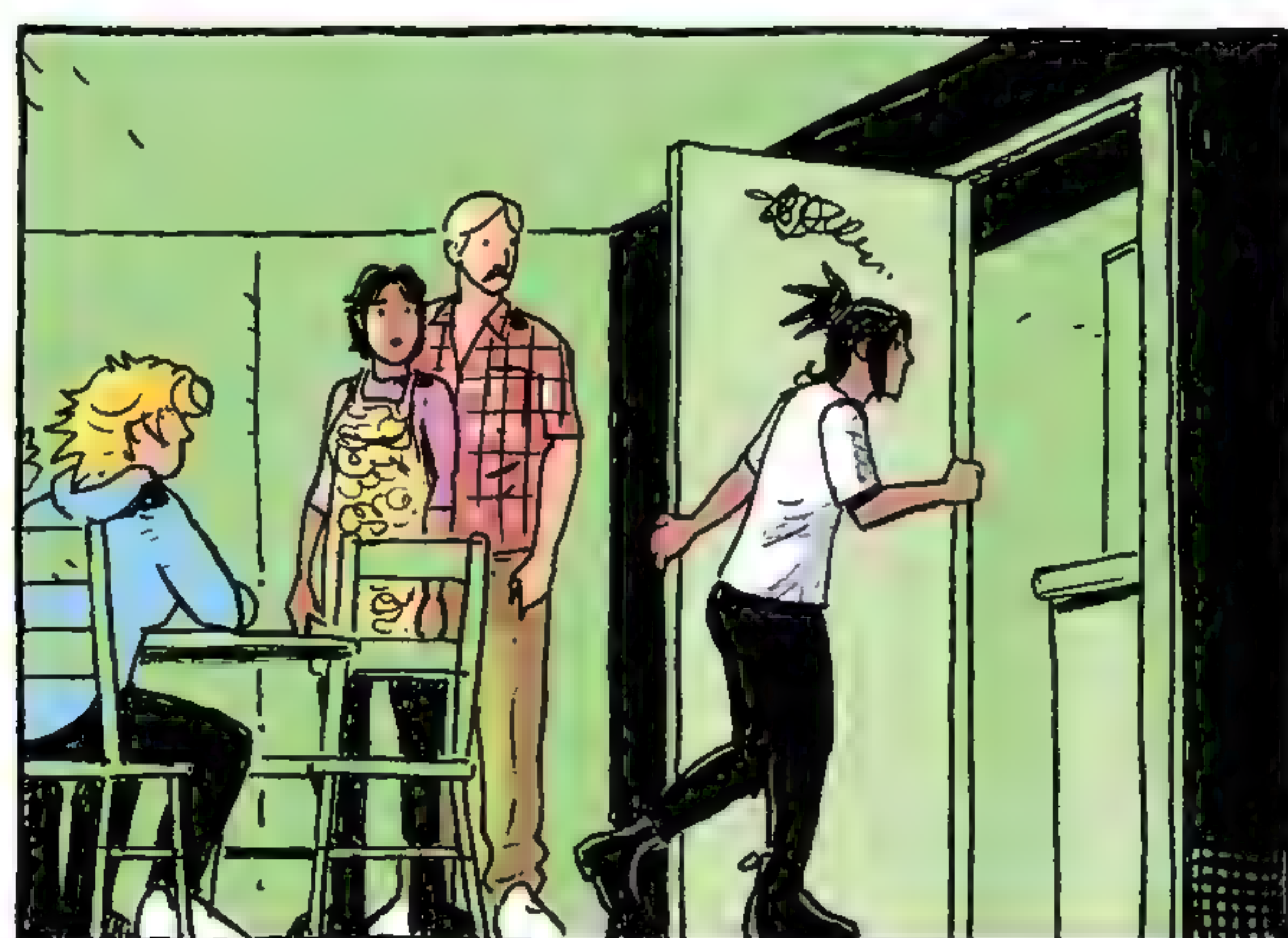
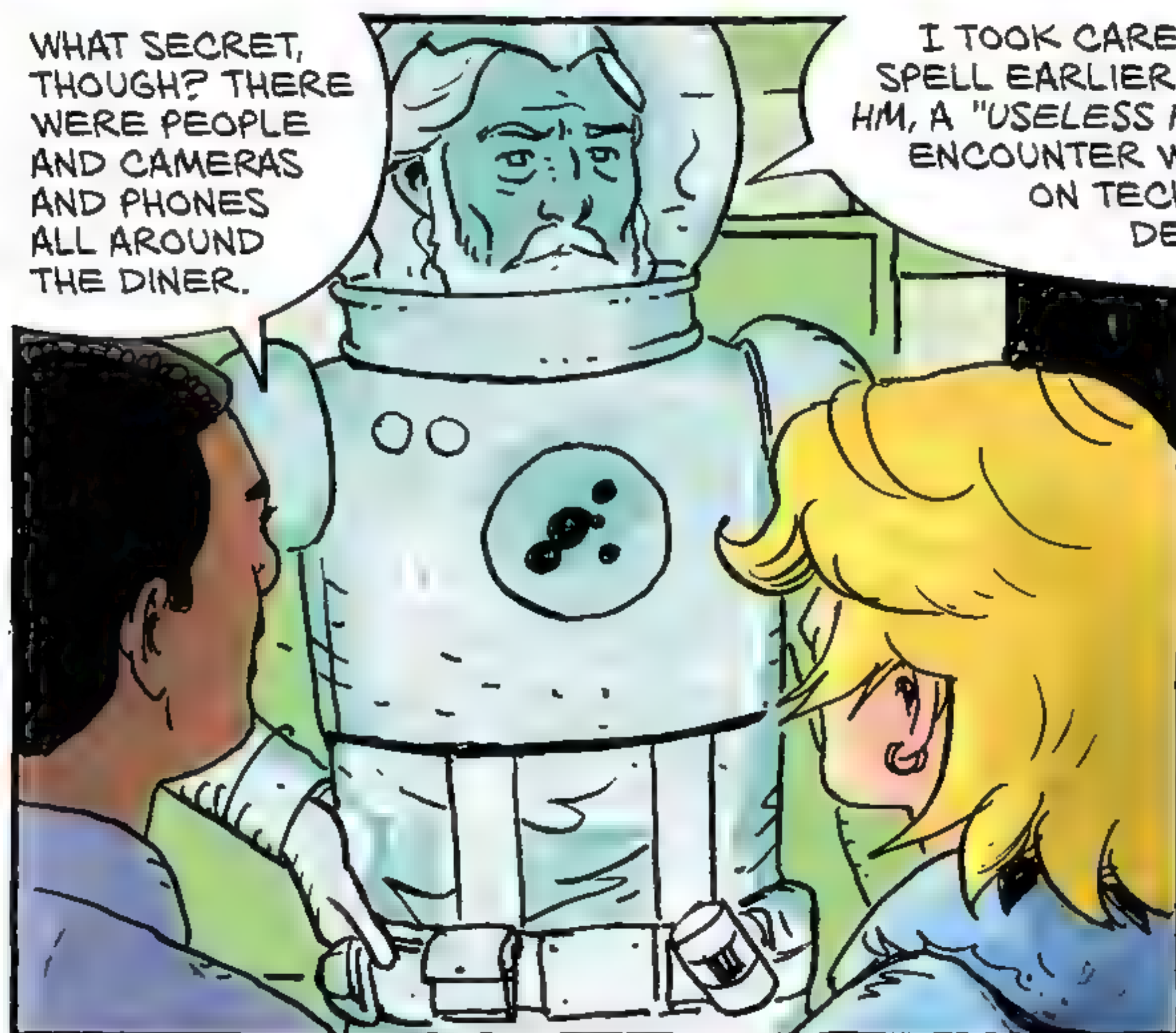
WHY HELP  
US INSTEAD OF  
THE FAE?

THEY  
WERE THE  
AGGRESSORS.  
EARTH WAS  
DEFENSE-  
LESS.

WHY  
ARE YOU THE  
ONLY ONE HERE,  
THEN? WHAT ABOUT  
THESE FRIENDS  
OF YOURS?

LIFE DURING  
WARTIME CAN  
BE...WELL....





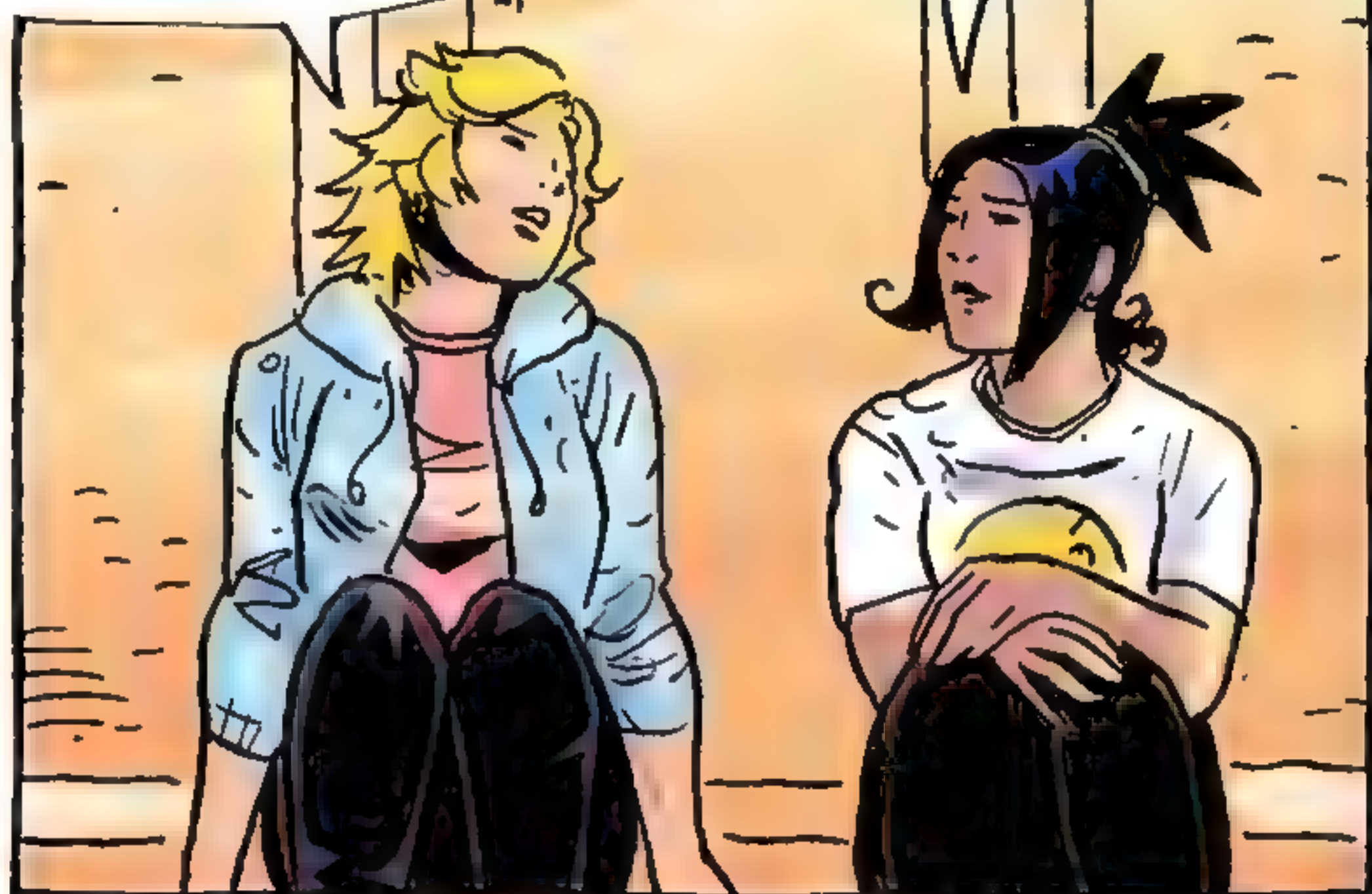


GOT A LITTLE HEAVY IN THERE?

TOO MUCH INFORMATION, TOO MUCH COMMENTARY. I JUST NEED SOME AIR.

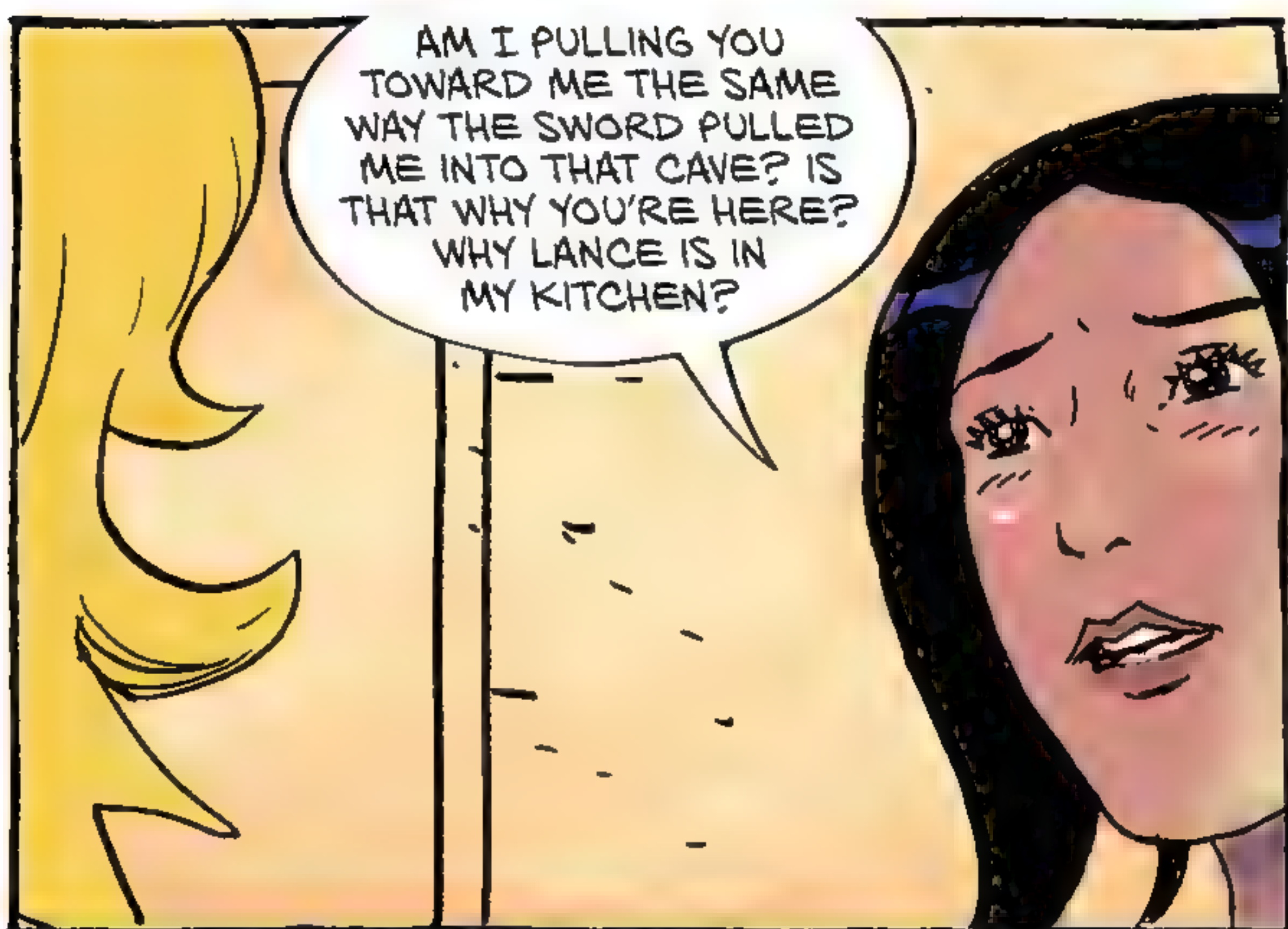
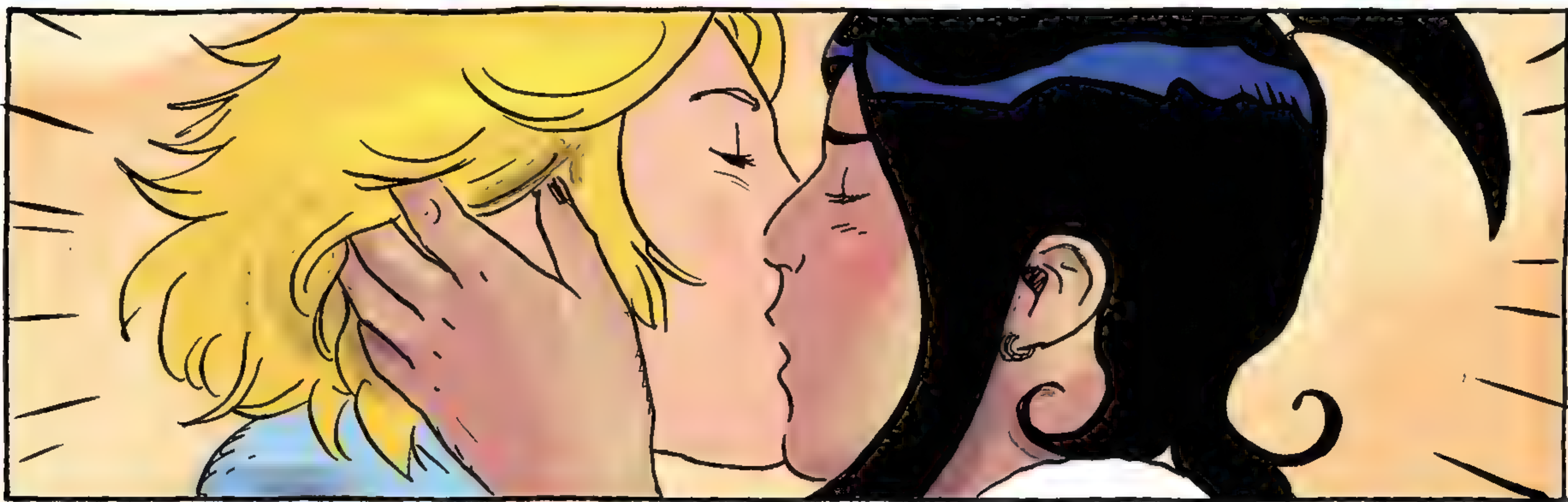
I GET IT. ME DAD ALWAYS SAW ME AS HIS LITTLE GIRL, EVEN WHEN I WAS DRAGGING HIM HOME FROM THE PUB OR WORKING OFF HIS DEBTS...WHY AM I TELLING YOU THIS?

IT'S FINE. I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU--AND BY "MORE," I GUESS I MEAN "ANYTHING."

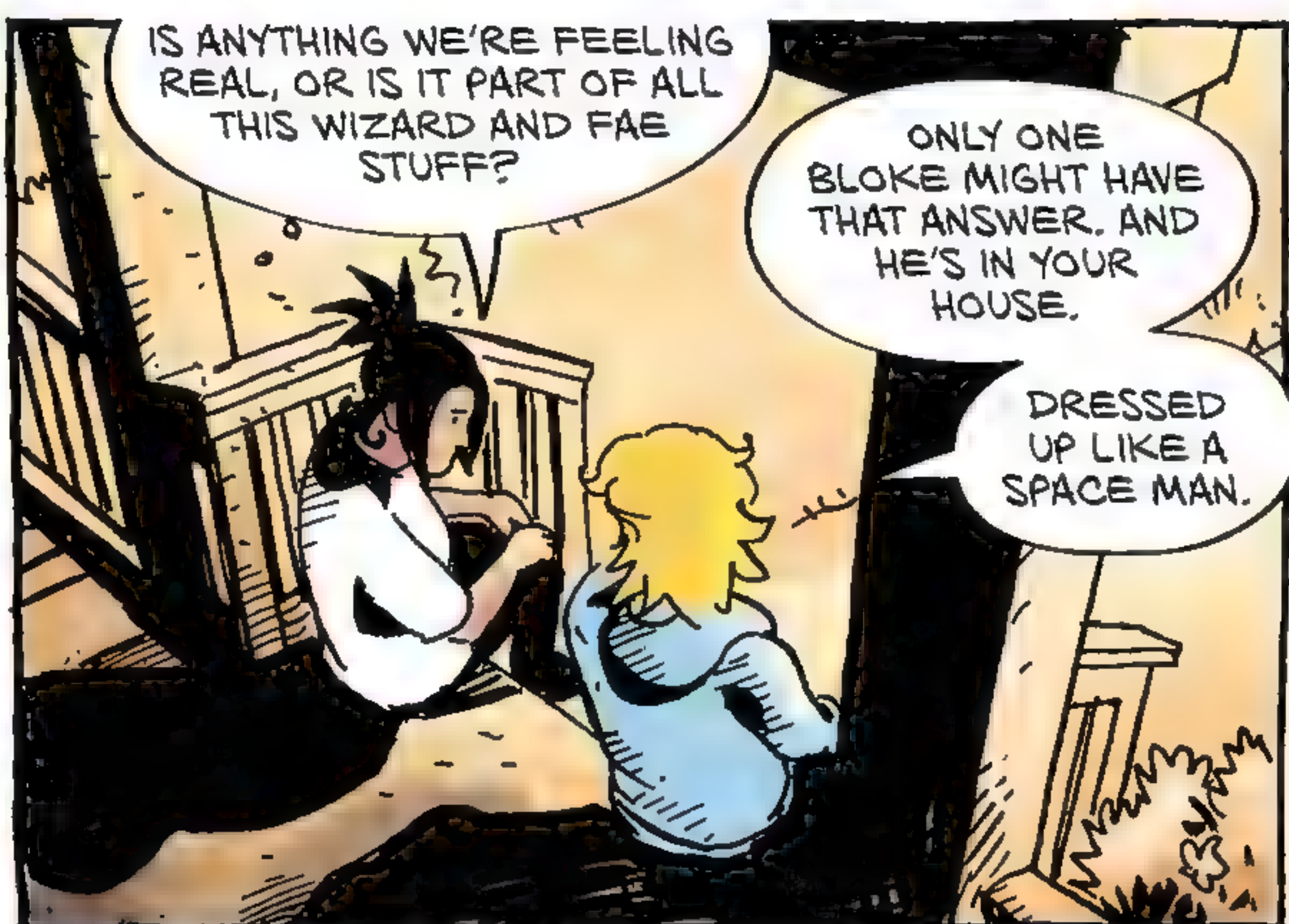


WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED IT. OR MAYBE I DID.



AM I PULLING YOU TOWARD ME THE SAME WAY THE SWORD PULLED ME INTO THAT CAVE? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE? WHY LANCE IS IN MY KITCHEN?



IS ANYTHING WE'RE FEELING REAL, OR IS IT PART OF ALL THIS WIZARD AND FAE STUFF?

ONLY ONE BLOKE MIGHT HAVE THAT ANSWER. AND HE'S IN YOUR HOUSE.

DRESSED UP LIKE A SPACE MAN.



YOU LEAVIN', BIG MAN?

NO, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU TWO.

I KNOW I...I KNOW I DIDN'T DO MUCH IN THAT FIGHT, BUT IT **FELT**...IT FELT LIKE WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING.



THE THREE OF US--  
**TOGETHER.**



THE THREE OF US, EH?

LOOK, I'M USUALLY LATE FOR WORK. NO, I'M **ALWAYS** LATE.

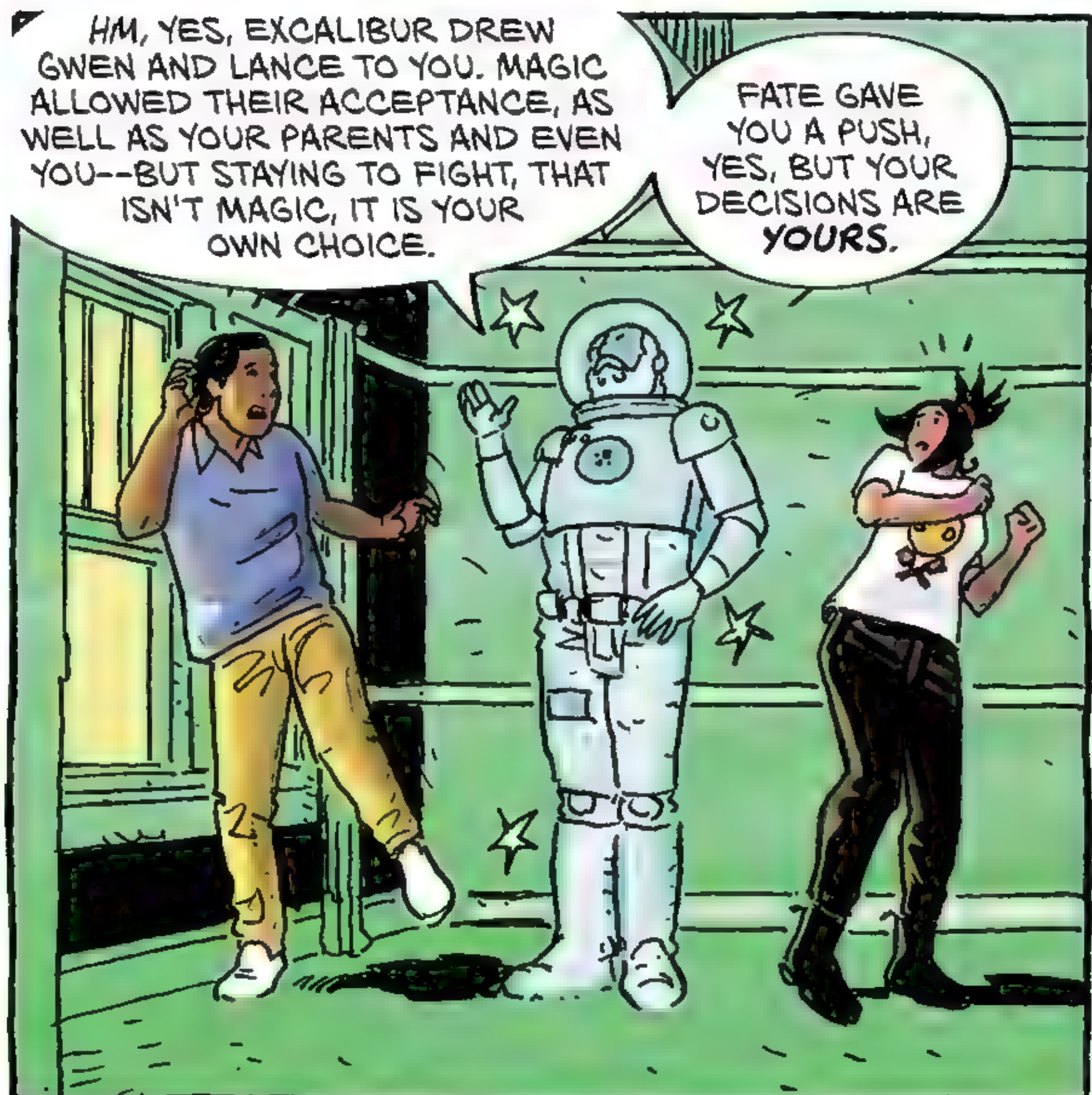


BUT NOT THIS MORNING. I COULDN'T BE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHY...



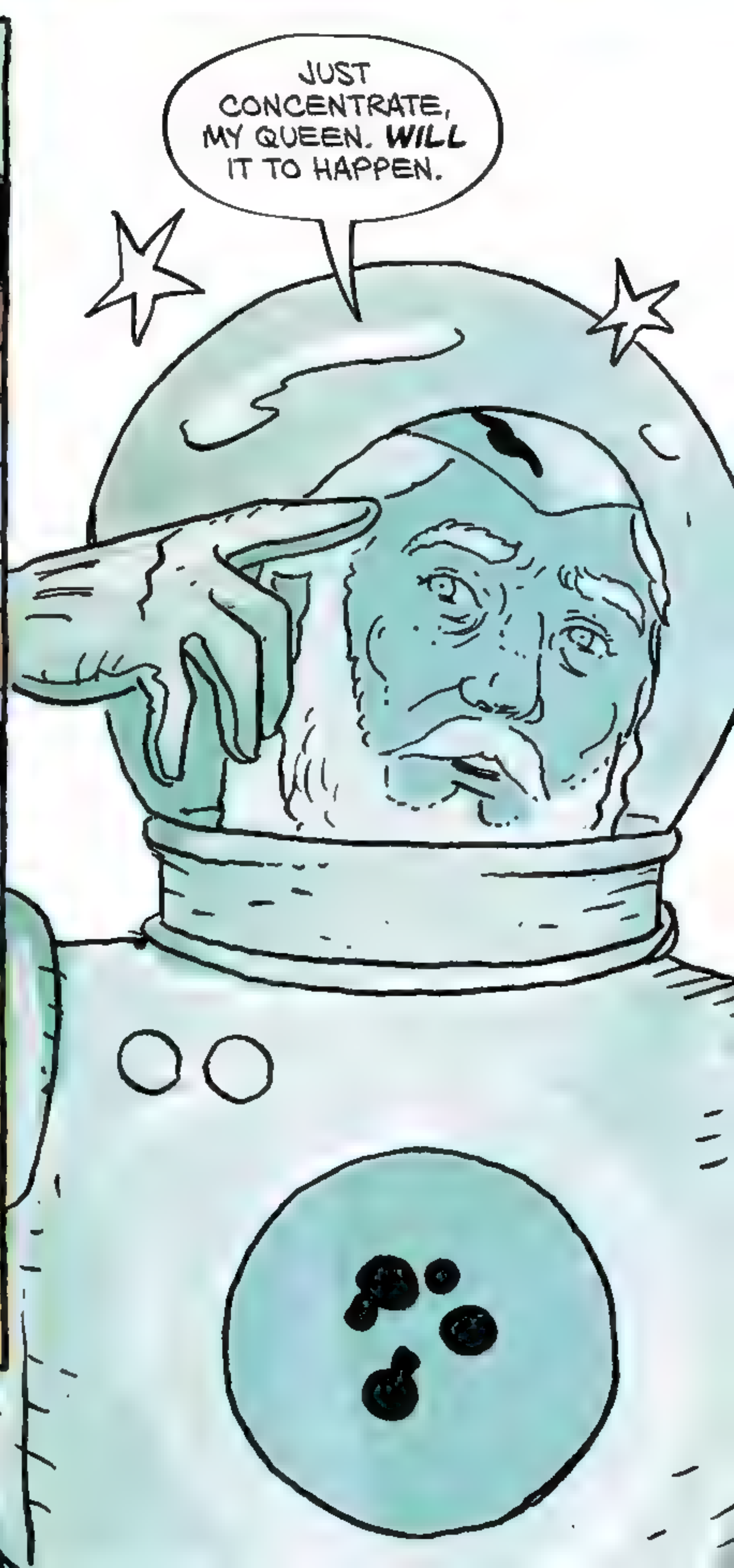
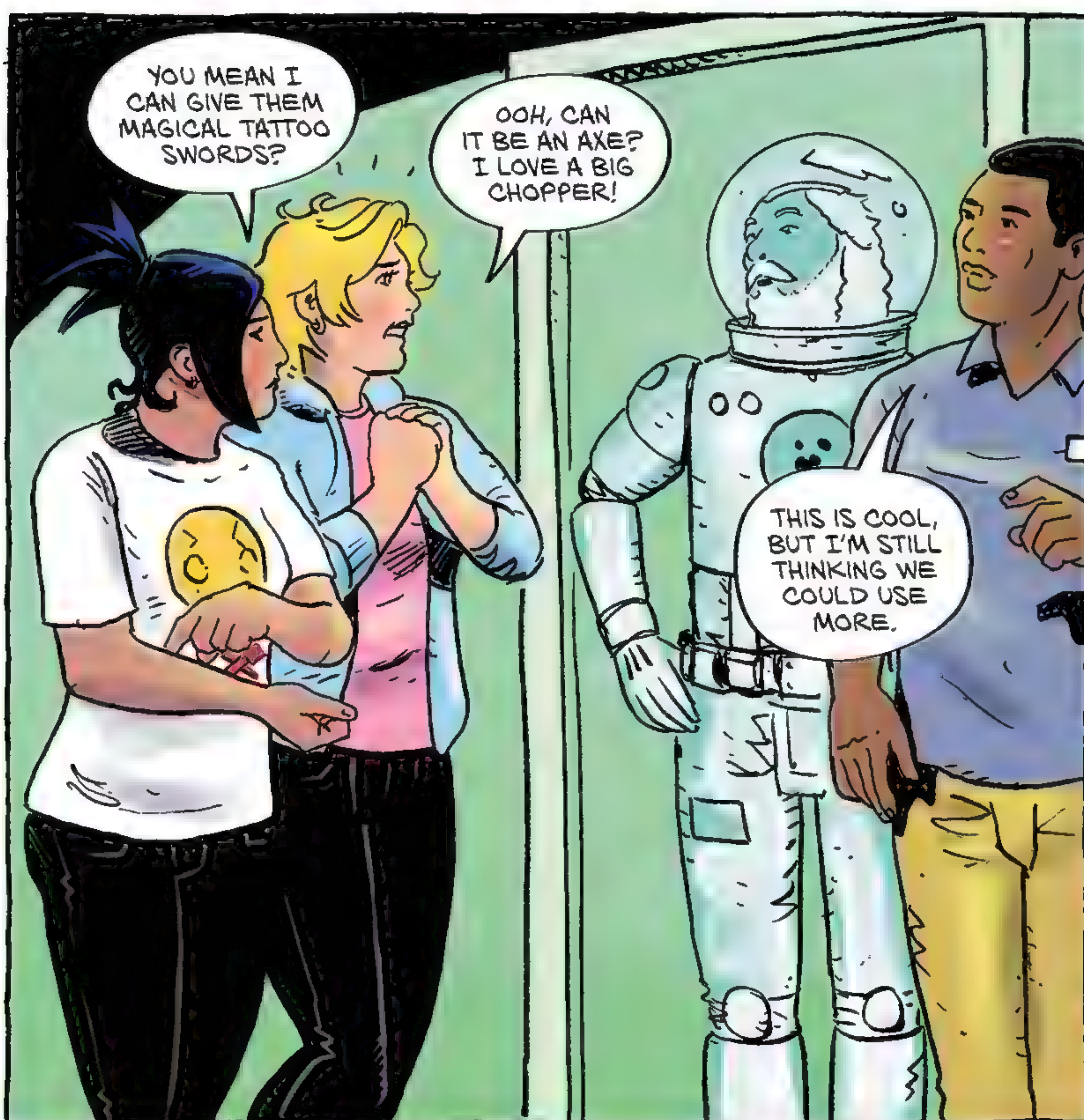
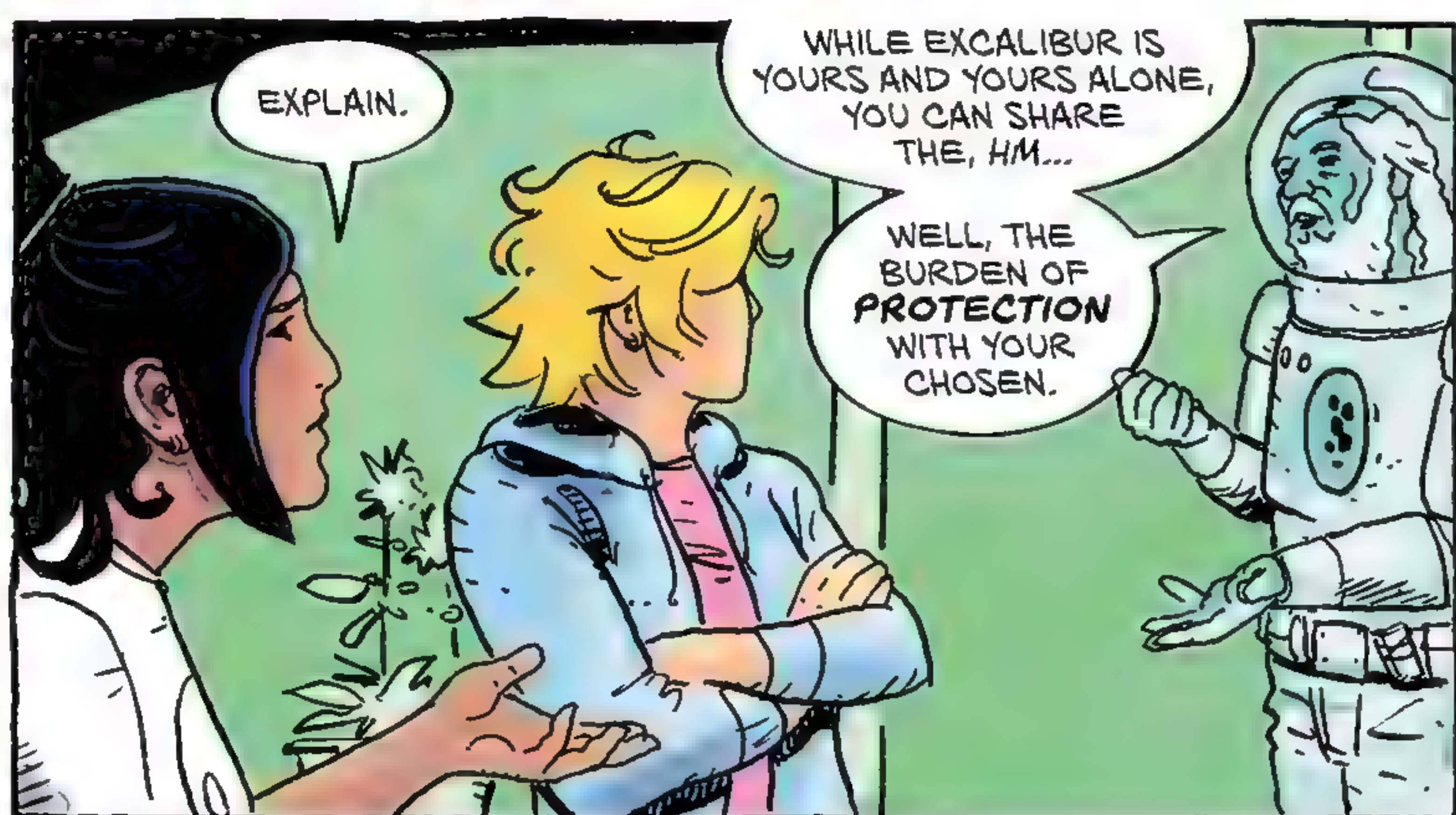
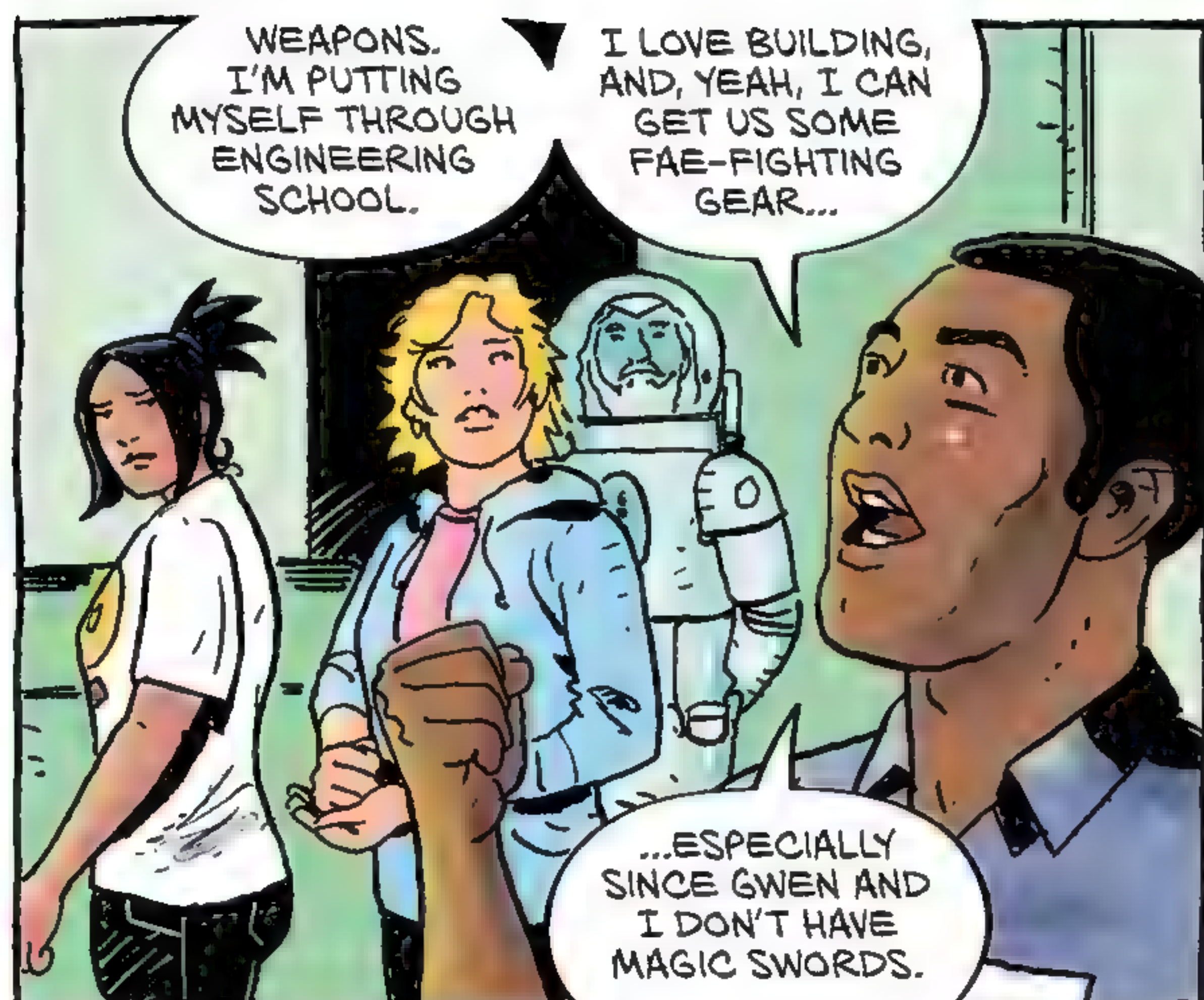
...UNTIL I SAW **YOU**, RANI.

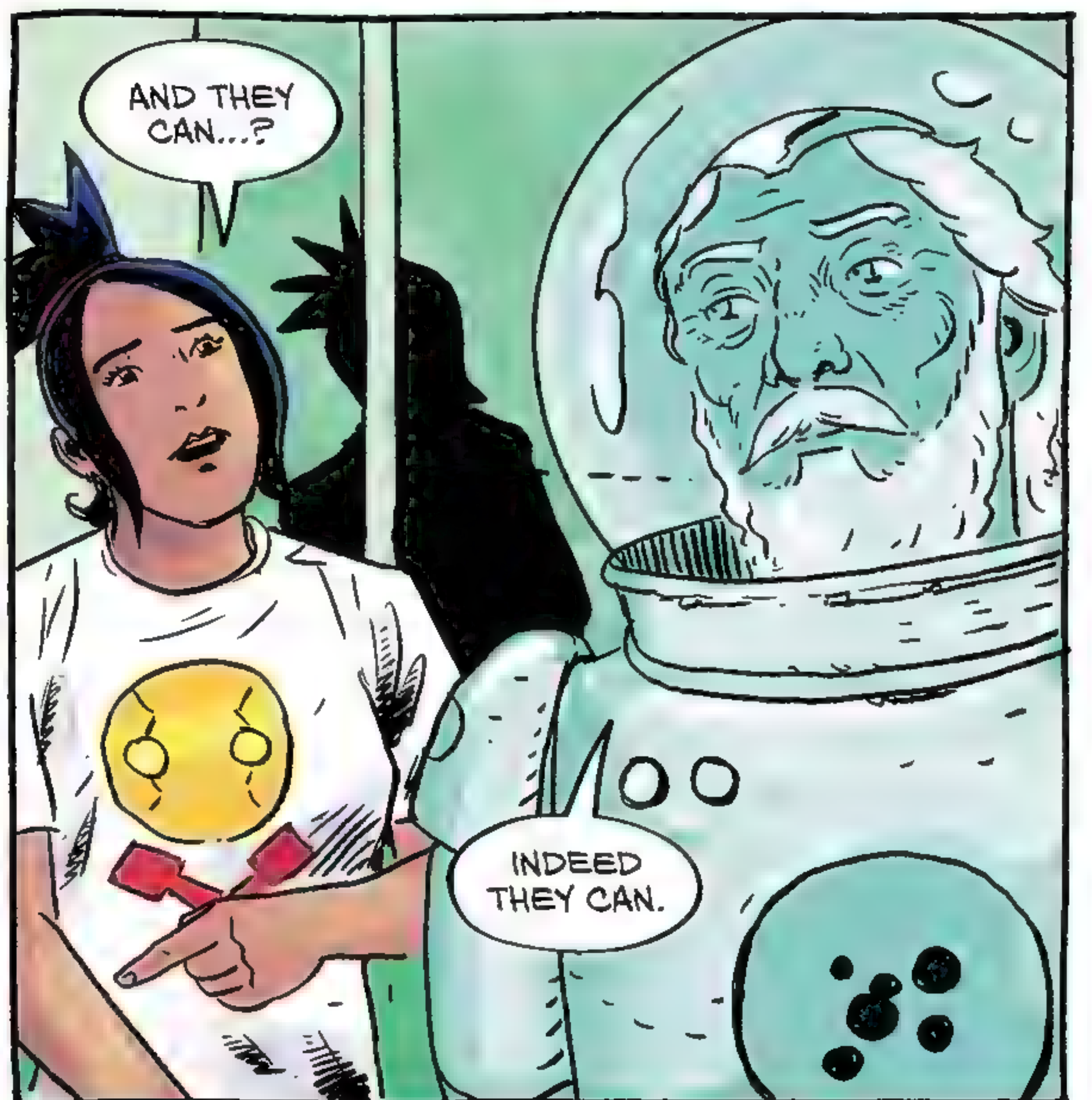
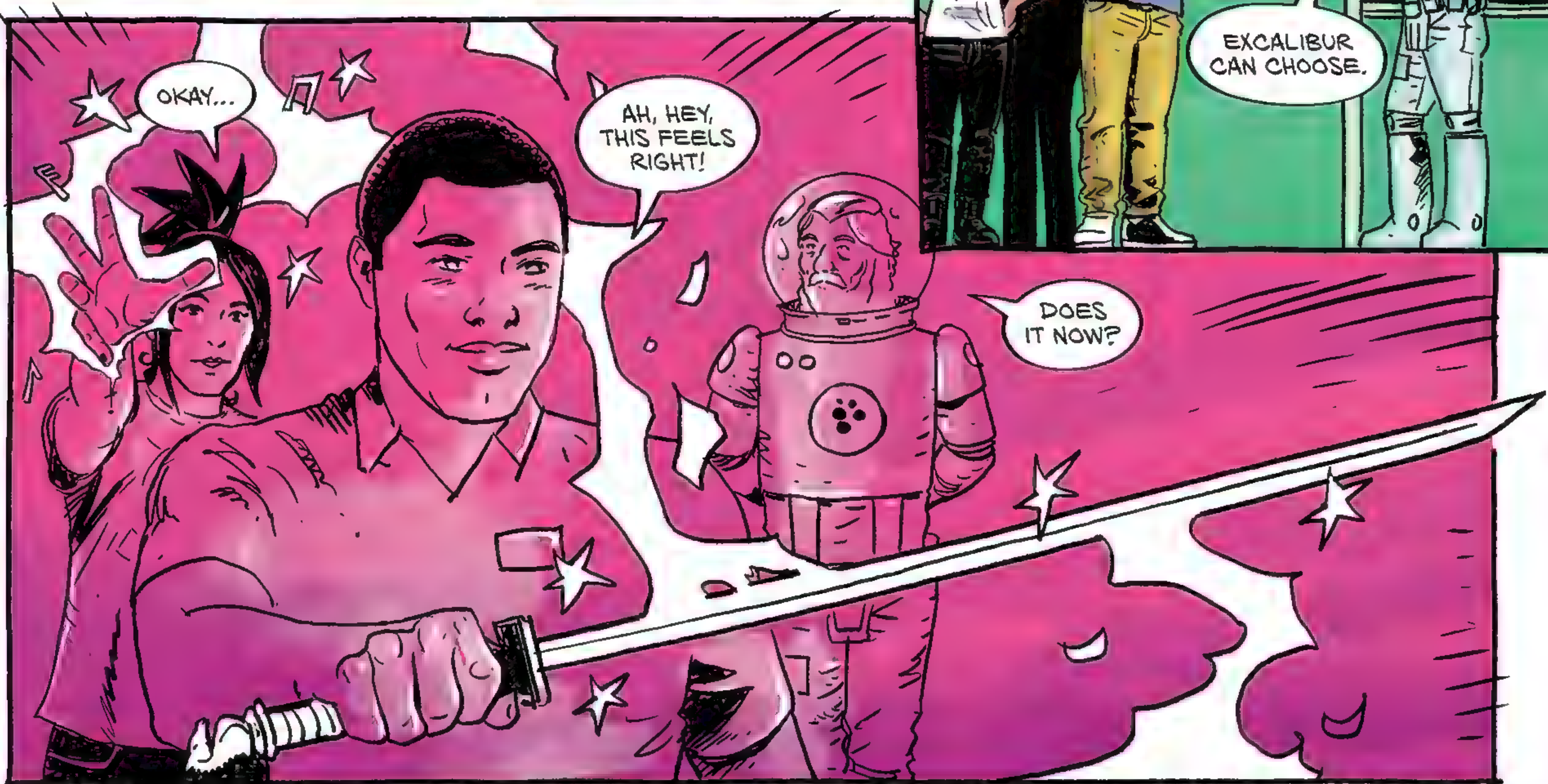
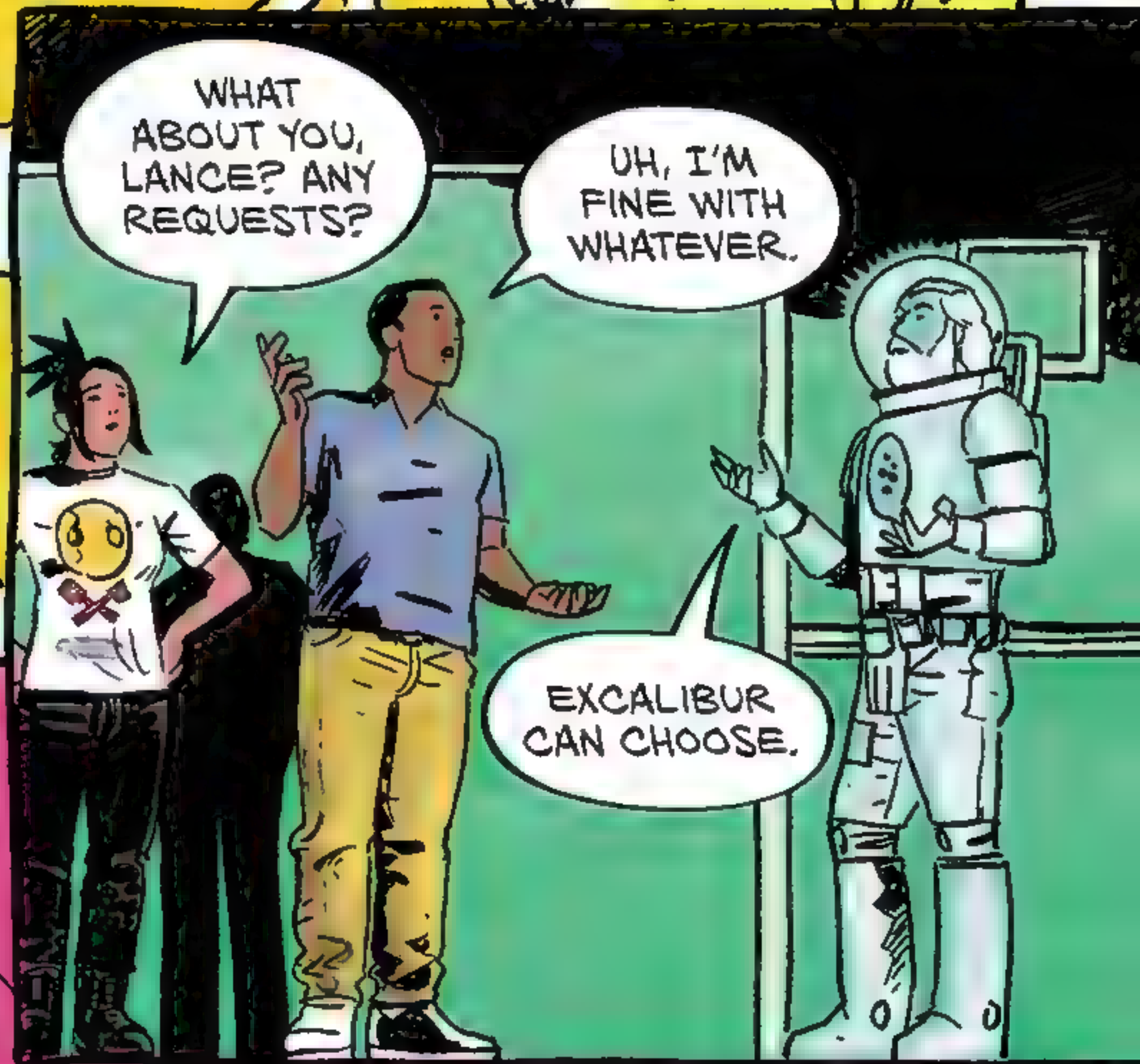
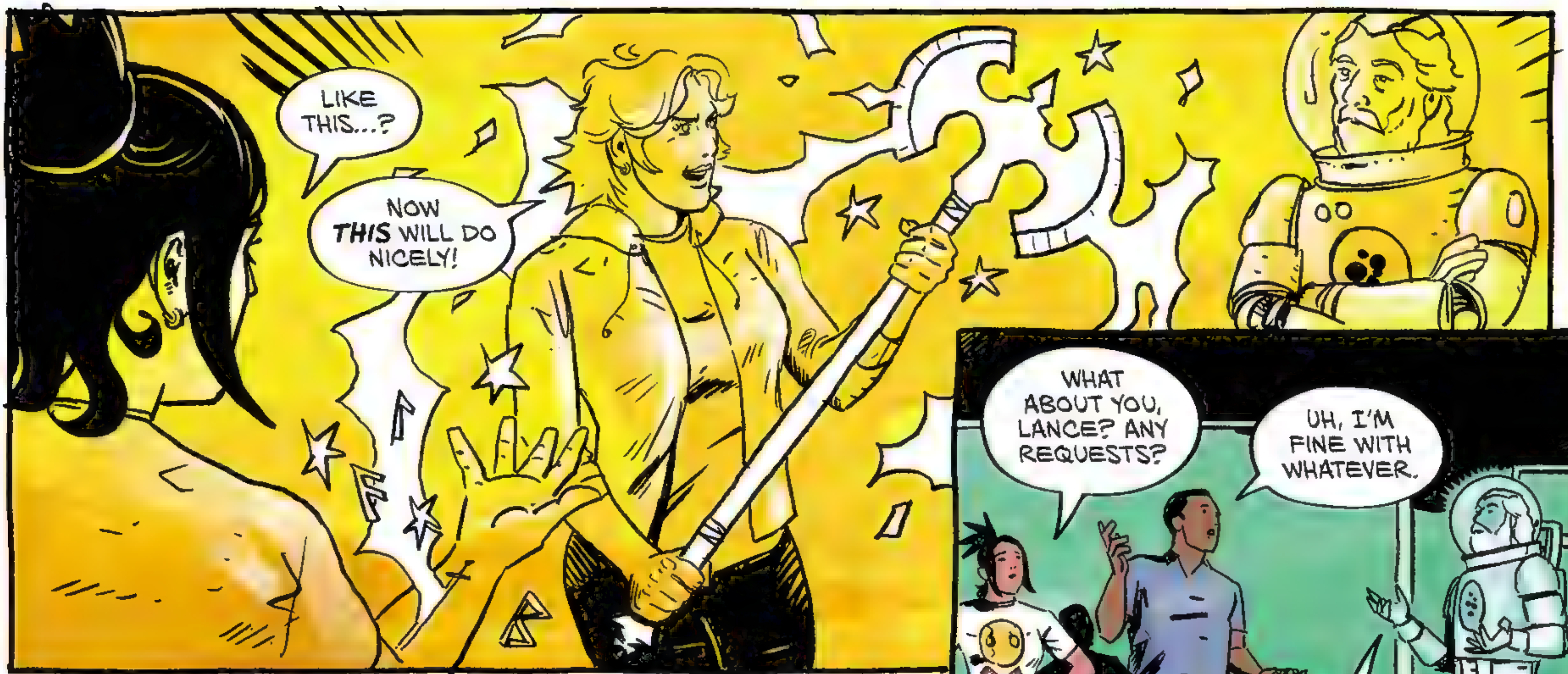
YOU WERE PULLED TO ME. SO IT'S ALL THE MAGIC, THEN. ALL OF THIS...**INSANITY** HAPPENING AROUND US.



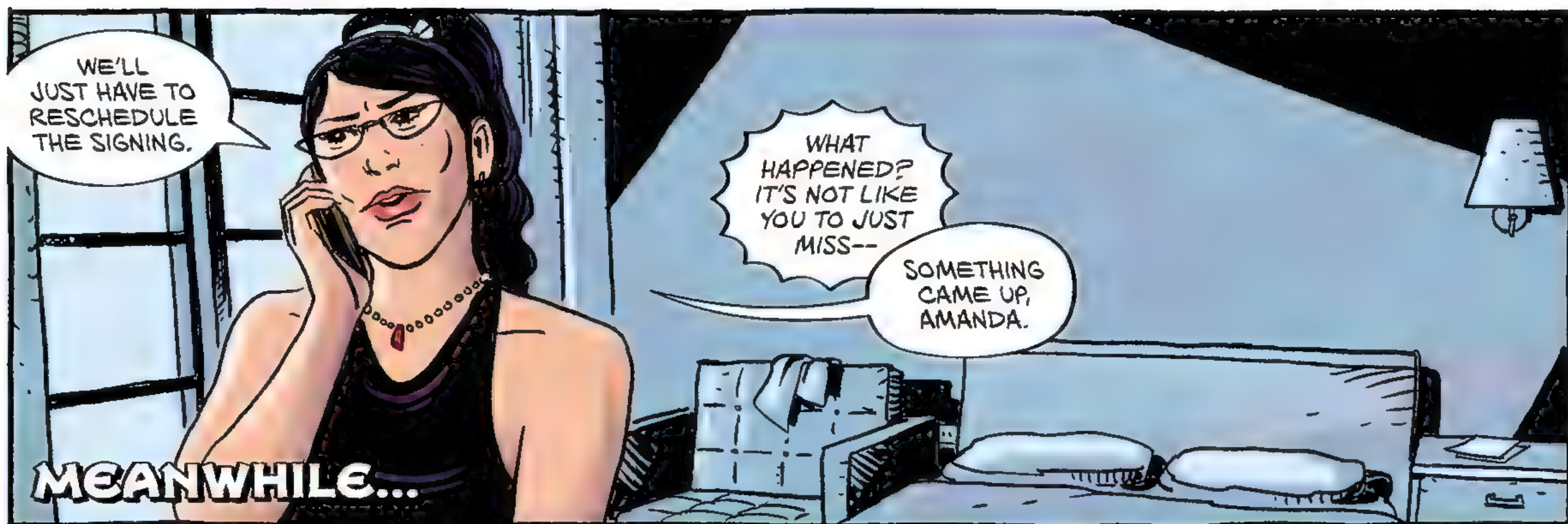
HM, YES, EXCALIBUR DREW GWEN AND LANCE TO YOU. MAGIC ALLOWED THEIR ACCEPTANCE, AS WELL AS YOUR PARENTS AND EVEN YOU--BUT STAYING TO FIGHT, THAT ISN'T MAGIC, IT IS YOUR OWN CHOICE.

FATE GAVE YOU A PUSH, YES, BUT YOUR DECISIONS ARE **YOURS.**









Merlin is depicted in a lion's head suit, a common disguise for him in Arthurian legend. He has a large, golden lion's head with a crown and a long mane. He is holding a sword in his right hand. A woman with dark hair and glasses is looking at him from a distance.

MERLIN IS  
CLOAKING HIS  
CHAMPION, BUT  
THIS ISN'T A LARGE  
CITY. I'LL FIND  
THEM.

MUST  
YOU WEAR THAT  
HUMAN-SKIN SUIT  
EVEN NOW?

A close-up of Morgana, a woman with dark hair and glasses, looking slightly to the side with a serious expression.

I DON'T GET  
ANY COMPLAINTS  
HERE.

YOUR  
COMFORT IS  
DISCONCERTING.  
MAYHAP YOU'VE  
BEEN THERE  
TOO LONG.

Morgana is shown from the side, wearing a black, strapless, floor-length dress. She is looking back over her shoulder towards the left.

YOU BREACHED, SO  
THE DRAWING OF THE  
SWORD'S CLEARLY  
WEAKENED  
BARRIERS--BUT  
HOW DID YOU KNOW  
EXCALIBUR WAS AT  
THE DINER WHEN  
YOU ATTACKED?

A close-up of Merlin's face, still in the lion's head suit. He has a serious, somewhat menacing expression.

I AM  
YOUR KING.  
FATE BENDS  
FOR ME.

YOU AND  
I BOTH KNOW THAT  
FICKLE BITCH CANNOT  
BE COUNTED  
UPON.

AT ANY RATE, I'VE  
SEEN THE ARTHUR'S TRUE  
FACE. I'LL KILL HER AND HER  
KNIGHTS BEFORE THEIR LITTLE  
ROUND TABLE EVEN FORMS.

A large, close-up shot of Morgana's face. She is looking directly at the viewer with a determined and somewhat sinister expression. Her dark hair and glasses are prominent.

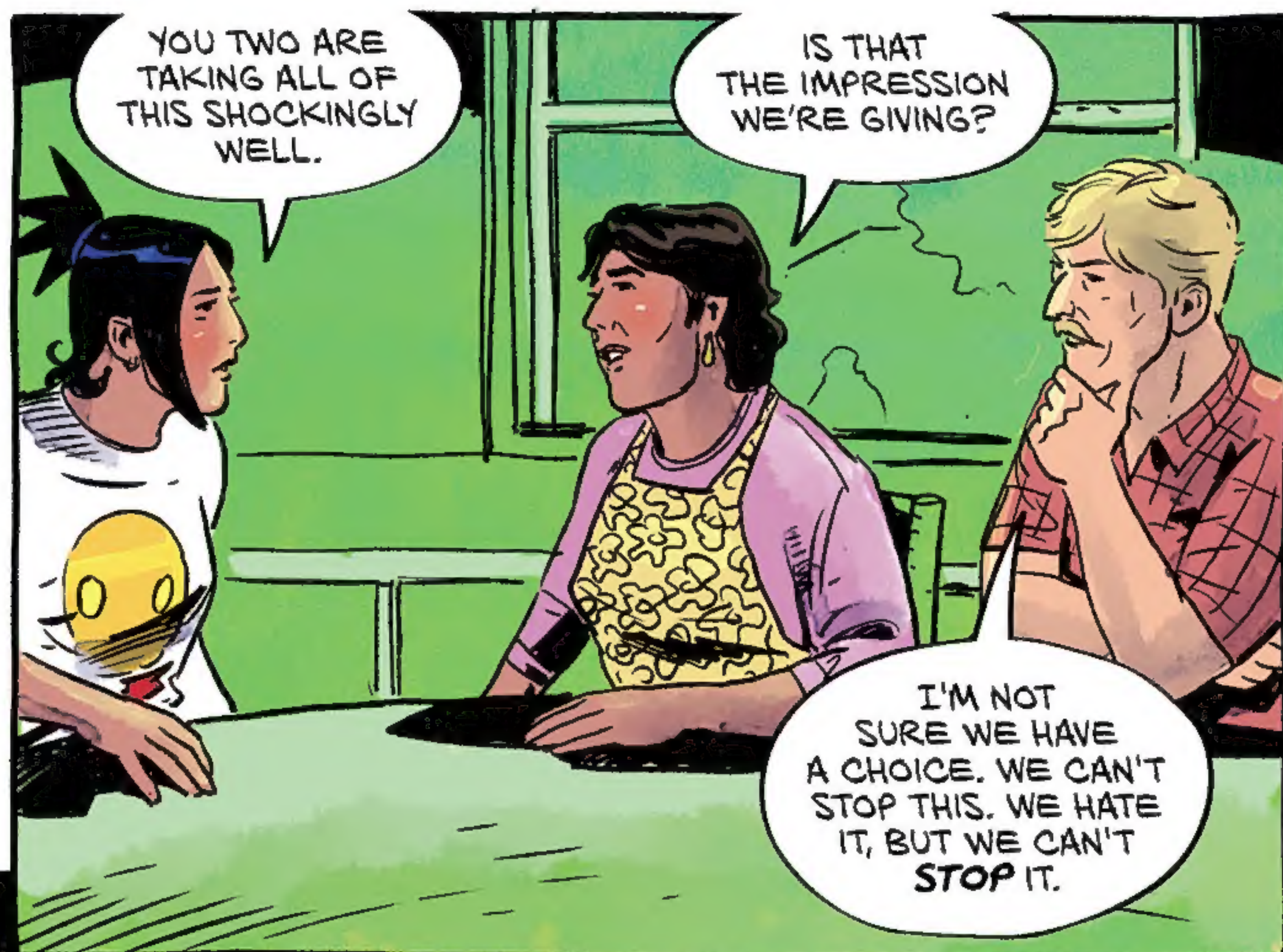
GOOD, MORGANA.  
THE DARKNESS AND  
THE BLOOD SING OF  
YOUR VICTORY.

Morgana is standing in a room, looking at a small, glowing orb on a table. The room has a lamp and a window in the background.

WHEELS  
WITHIN  
WHEELS.



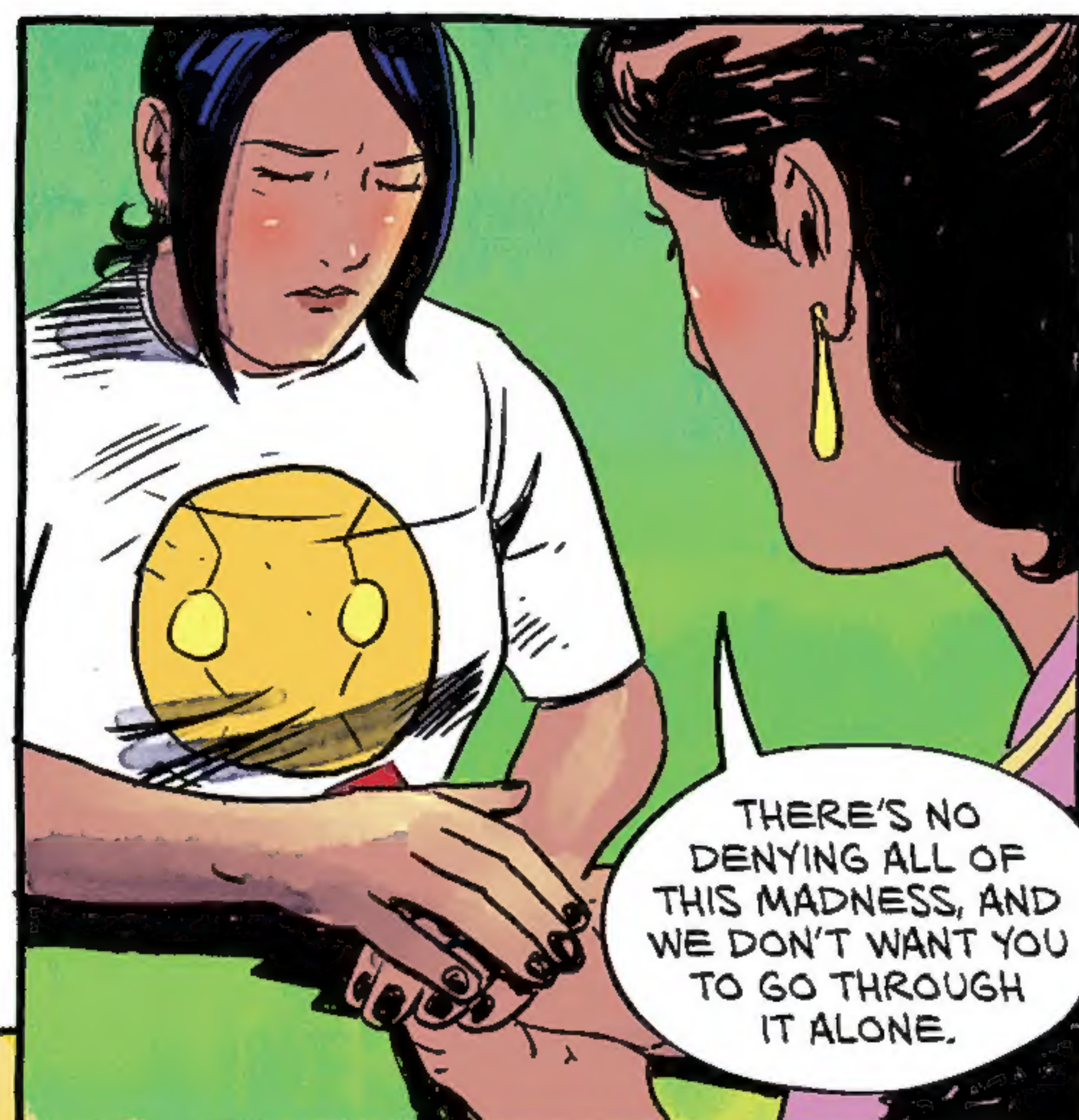
C-CAREFUL.  
JUST, AHM, JUST  
SPARRING,  
YES?



YOU TWO ARE  
TAKING ALL OF  
THIS SHOCKINGLY  
WELL.

IS THAT  
THE IMPRESSION  
WE'RE GIVING?

I'M NOT  
SURE WE HAVE  
A CHOICE. WE CAN'T  
STOP THIS. WE HATE  
IT, BUT WE CAN'T  
STOP IT.



THERE'S NO  
DENYING ALL OF  
THIS MADNESS, AND  
WE DON'T WANT YOU  
TO GO THROUGH  
IT ALONE.

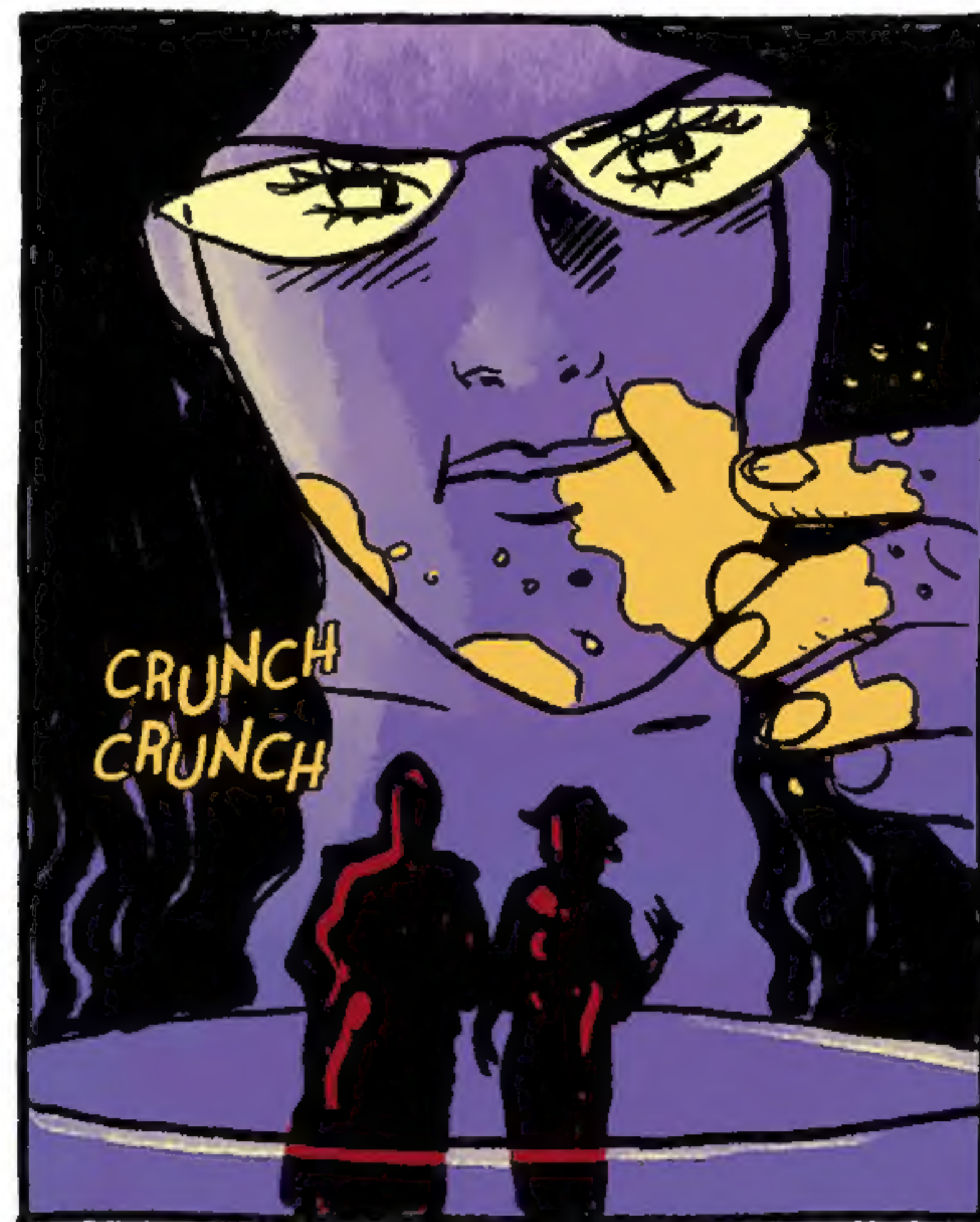


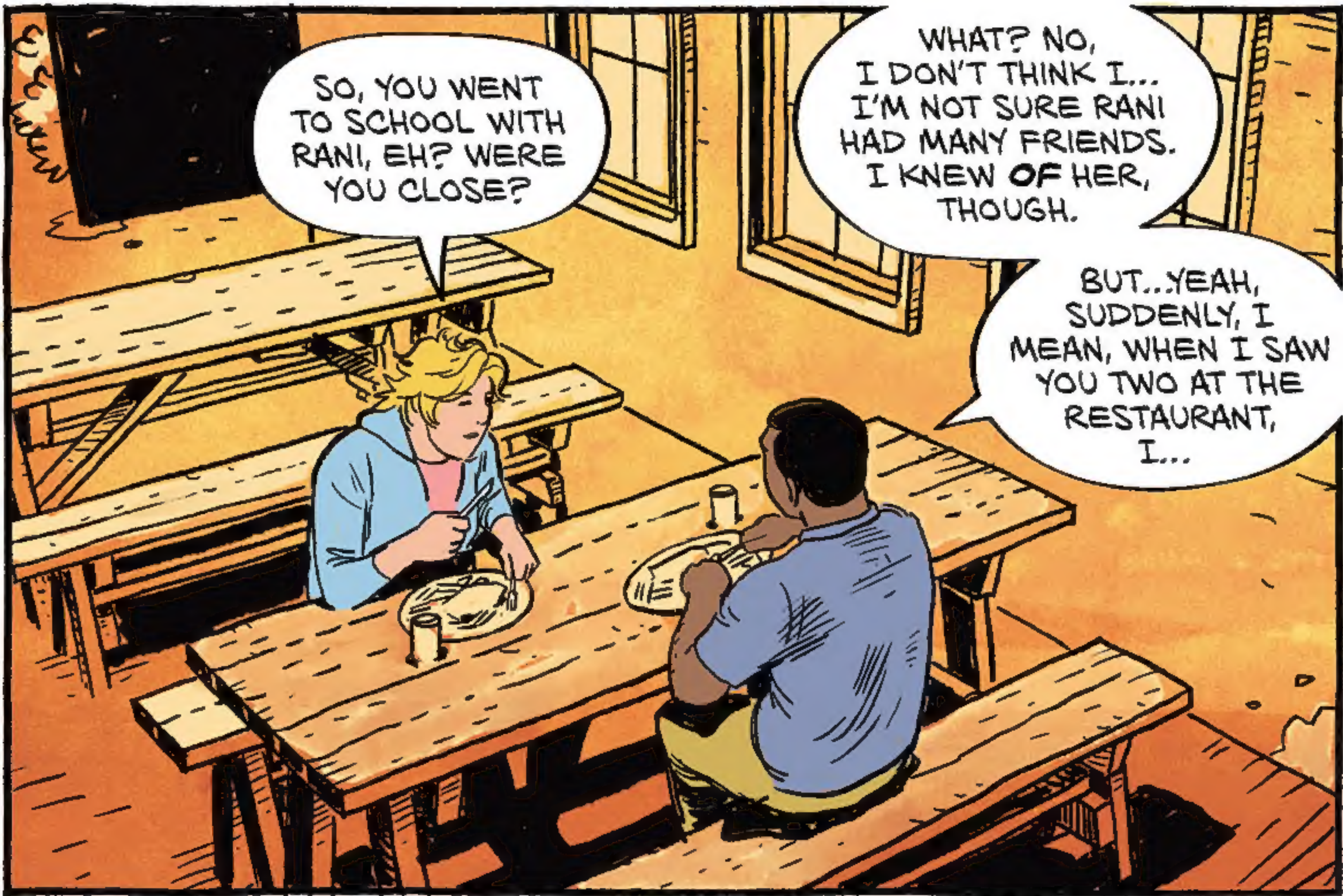
WHAT  
NOW--?



UM...  
SORRY?

HOLY  
SHIT. ONE  
SWIPE!





SO, YOU WENT TO SCHOOL WITH RANI, EH? WERE YOU CLOSE?

WHAT? NO, I DON'T THINK I... I'M NOT SURE RANI HAD MANY FRIENDS. I KNEW OF HER, THOUGH.

BUT..YEAH, SUDDENLY, I MEAN, WHEN I SAW YOU TWO AT THE RESTAURANT, I...



YOU WHAT?



I DON'T... I DUNNO.

NOTHING.



THE KING SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS.

IT'LL BUY ME SOME TRUST.

**TO BE CONTINUED!**

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

